

Border crossings seized by federal troops as Belgrade hits back against two defiant republics

Yugoslav tanks roll into Slovenia

By TIM JUDAH IN LJUBLJANA AND MICHAEL BINYON

YUGOSLAV tanks moved into Slovenia and Croatia yesterday as the two republics struggled to assert their independence. Fighting broke out in Slovenia as federal troops were ordered to seize control of international border crossings.

A Yugoslav officer died in a gun battle in the eastern town of Ormoz, and two airmen were killed when their army helicopter was shot down over Ljubljana. Four border checkpoints were captured.

The troops moved in barely 31 hours after the two republics declared their independence. The commander of the 5th army division, General Konrad Kolesar, pledged that all resistance would be broken. He told the Slovene prime minister, Lojze Peterle, that his orders would be executed unconditionally. "We shall be proceeding according to the rules of combat."

For the past two days, fighter jets have swooped low over Ljubljana and the city has been sealed off by Slovene military police units bracing for attack. The republic's president, Milan Kucan, yesterday condemned "forceful and ruthless action" by the Yugoslav army and ordered military units to use force to protect the nation's sovereignty.

Reports reaching Ljubljana spoke of "helicopter assaults" as the Yugoslav army began to head for the border checkpoints. One helicopter was said to have been shot down by territorial defence forces and to have crashed into the street near the university. The pilot and co-pilot were killed.

In Ormoz, a Yugoslav officer was killed and two tanks were disabled in a clash with Slovene units. Four people were injured. Jelko Kacin, the information minister, said that several army vehicles had been destroyed or disabled in accidents or because of technical problems. One tank that broke down in Moste, a village north of the capital, was attacked and looted by local people.

In other villages near by, cars and trucks were crushed as tanks broke through road blocks in their drive to reach the airport, which closed on Wednesday. The airport was surrounded, but remained in Slovene hands, and vehicles had been packed on the runways to prevent landings by the Yugoslav air force.

In Croatia, television showed film of federal tanks moving through the city of Osijek, about 90 miles from Zagreb, driving panic-stricken residents before them.

International reaction to the troop movements was swift. Austria and Italy called for a meeting of the Vienna-based conflict prevention centre of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European parliament called for an immediate meeting of CSCE foreign ministers, as did Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, at a meeting of the Western European Union.

The Nato council said it was greatly concerned, and European Community leaders will discuss the situation at their Luxembourg summit today. They may send a political mission to Belgrade.

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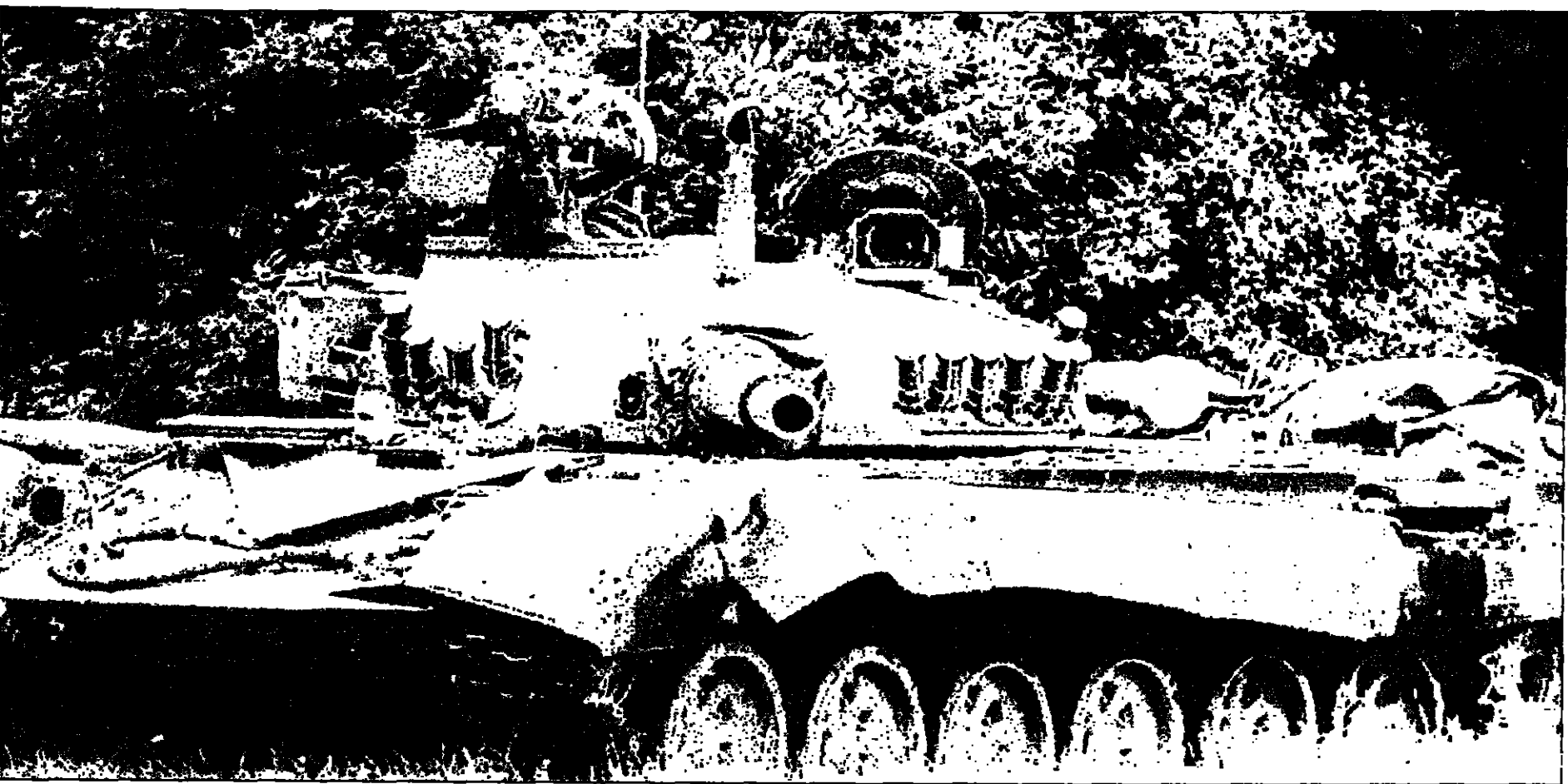
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Firm stand: a Yugoslav army tank guarding the road to Ljubljana airport at Brnik yesterday. The airport is now blocked by the Yugoslav army, which is taking over border crossings

British tourists told to fly home

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of British tourists are to be flown home from resorts in Yugoslavia after the foreign office advised yesterday that all non-essential travel to the country be deferred.

Most of the estimated 15,000 British holidaymakers now in the country are expected to be brought home over the next few days, although some will be offered the chance of remaining if they wish. No further charter flights to the country will take place and those who have booked will be offered their money back, an alternative holiday or the chance of waiting until the country returns to normal.

Yugotours, the biggest package tour operator to the country with 11,000 British holiday-makers now in resorts, said that their customers would be given the option of staying or flying back. Those in Slovenia would be given the option of moving to another resort in an unaffected area. As a specialist operator, Yugotours cannot offer alternative holidays to its customers, but will offer refunds.

For other tour operators, however, the block on further flights was put into immediate effect yesterday afternoon. The main resorts affected are Bled, Kranjska Gora and Portoroz. One plane load of 75 Thomson Holiday passengers from Manchester and Birmingham were given the news that their holiday would be cut short within minutes of landing at Dubrovnik.

They were taken to their hotel for one night only and will be flown back today. They will be given the option of their money back or an alternative holiday.

Another aircraft with 100



Summit leaders sidestep the federal obstacle

By GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG AND ROBIN OAKLEY IN LONDON

ATTEMPTS to introduce the explosive word "federalism" into the draft EC treaty on political and monetary union were quietly dropped yesterday as John Major and other EC leaders headed for today's Luxembourg summit.

Mr Major, giving his response to Margaret Thatcher's warnings about Britain's future in the EC, told the Tory women's conference in London: "There are only three options for our future in Europe. We can leave the community - that option is barely credible. Or we can sit on the sidelines, treat Europe as a spectator sport - and then, in the end, inevitably be forced to follow where others lead."

The third option was "to put ourselves at the very heart of the community, initiate policies, form alliances, debate wholeheartedly, fight for the future Europe we want to see. That will not be a federal superstate but a Europe of ever closer union between governments and peoples."

Jacques Delors, the Commission president, said in his pre-summit statement that he would not object strongly if the word "federal" was taken out of the text. He had looked up federalism in an English dictionary and was reassured to find that the word meant a decentralised political system.

Luxembourg also backed down over its insistence on a reference to federalism in the draft treaty. Jacques Santer, the Luxembourg prime minister who will chair the European Council, made plain he was no longer pressing for the word "federal" to be included in the treaty.

Interviewed on BBC radio's *The World at One*, Mr Santer said it was important to agree on goals and purposes, the internal market, economic and monetary union and some political union, with the extension of a common foreign policy. Whether that was covered by the words "political union" or "federal" was for him "very subsidiary".

British sources last night welcomed the apparent softening but pointed out there were still other countries with strong views on federalism.

WEU members who wish to retain the Atlantic alliance and those who want the union to develop into a European defence force.

France was content that a "European defence identity" was mentioned as part of the process of political union. Britain was satisfied that the future of European defence for the moment clearly lies with the Atlantic alliance.

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, accepted that Paris had now moderated its hard line. "It is the British point of view, more than anything," he said, "that had won a partial victory".

Douglas Hogg, junior Foreign Office minister, said it was "far too early" to start talking about a separate EC army that could intervene in situations like Yugoslavia. It was also too early to discuss enlarging the WEU to include Greece, Denmark and Ireland.

Major to attack truancy

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN Major yesterday promised a crackdown on truancy by tightening up on school registers. He told the Conservative women's conference in London that he was not prepared to tolerate the levels of absence from school prevalent in some inner cities, where one child in four was a regular truant.

The education department is expected to publish regulations requiring schools to register authorised and unauthorised absences of children. From August next year the schools will have to publish the information.

Mr Major's speech appeared to be seeking to draw a line under the era of Thatcherism. He said the only "ism" he believed was Conservatism.

Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, described the speech as trivial and puerile.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

INTERVIEW

Kate Muir meets Terry Venables, whose emblems will surely be a car phone and a football, waiting for a call from the boy Gazza Page 12

P IS FOR FEDERAL

Philip Howard says the federalism argument is about principle, pride, pique and petty-mindedness. For starters Page 14

OPINION

Janet Daley says the trial of the men who freed George Blake illuminates the border between idealism and arrogance Page 14

INSIDE

Late question
The Commons is to investigate MPs' working hours following pressure from backbenchers who have young families. A select committee will also look at the procedures of the House. Page 4
Sitting comfortably? Page 12

Spiritual comfort

A proposal to allow alcohol to be sold in Methodist residential colleges and institutions is to be examined by the church's divisions. Page 2

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Soggy June joins records

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE torrential rains that have been lashing England and Wales over recent weeks, turning cricket pitches into duck ponds and ruining the opening of Wimbledon, could make June 1991... the 51st wettest since records began in 1727 in the reign of George II.

After weathermen had lashed Wednesday night's downpour into their computer model, the month seemed destined to equal the 56th wettest in the league table of soggy Junes.

As the weather delayed the start of play at Wimbledon on the fourth day, unusual methods had to be taken to decide other sporting events. Hertfordshire, a minor county team, beat Derbyshire in the NatWest trophy after five bowlers from each side bowled at unguarded stumps. Surrey beat Oxfordshire after a



Whiter than white: Andre Agassi surprised the Wimbledon crowds by abandoning his traditional colourful clothing for white. Simon Barnes, page 39

Wimbledon, pages 39, 40
'Bowling' wins, pages 38, 40

At a meeting in Luxembourg of the foreign ministers of the Western European Union, Britain and France yesterday defused the potentially explosive issue of defence before the start of the summit. A policy statement was devised which pleased both

Lamont hits at pay rises

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the chancellor, yesterday added his voice to the prime minister's condemnation of big pay rises for the heads of newly privatised industry.

He criticised what one Labour MP branded a "fat-cat greed race" on the day Wessex Water announced an 80 per cent rise for its chairman, bringing his annual pay to £100,000, and as speculation grew that the pay of PowerGen's chief has almost trebled in a over 12 months.

Kuwait offers a sanctuary to London zoo

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN KUWAIT CITY

MOUSSA al-Khasthi, director of Kuwait's zoo, has offered to take animals from Regent's Park if the London zoo is forced to close by shortage of funds next month. "We will be receiving a new budget for restocking and rebuilding in July," Mr al-Khasthi, who was trained in Britain, said. "But if we can help London zoo by taking any of their animals, we will be pleased to do so. We have all the food and water to provide them a good home and most cages are already repaired."

David Jones, the general director of London zoo, said last week that £2 million was needed from the British government by July 9 if closure of the

zoo in September was to be avoided. Mr al-Khasthi, seated in his newly refurbished office in a block wrecked by Iraqi officers after using it as their mess, believes that the reopening of the zoo, scheduled for the autumn, will be a potent symbol that Kuwait is recovering from its seven months of brutal occupation.

He confirmed that starving Iraqi troops had eaten his elands and buffaloes, but remained unsure about the claim that they had also devoured the snakes. "They were our enemies, but we must try to tell the truth."

Mr al-Khasthi issued an appeal to international zoos to help to replace the species lost in the conflict. These included all the zoo's 326 birds, 43 out

of 55 different types of mammal and all 40 reptiles bar three tortoises returned after the war by a local who had been looking after them.

Dalal, an Indian elephant, is one of the few animals left alive in the war-ravaged zoo, albeit with an Iraqi bullet still lodged deep in her left shoulder. It was found by an American army mine detector and later treated by a British vet.

"Like the three lions, the two hippos, the giraffe and the bears, she was one of the few species those Iraqis could neither eat nor steal," said Mr al-Khasthi. The inhumanity of the Iraqis towards the animals in what was one of the best-run zoos in the Middle East has caught the public's

imagination in the West. "We get telephone calls every day from Britain and other places asking how the animals are," Mr al-Khasthi said. "I have to say that just 5 per cent survived. When we get up to 40 per cent, we will open for visitors again."

A spokesman at London zoo commented last night: "Our staff have helped the Kuwait authorities since the end of the war and we know of the facilities they have to offer, but it is too early to say if there are any animals which would be available for transfer to Kuwait." It would be three years before the animals would have to be dispersed if Regent's Park operations were forced to begin running down this year.

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Panic story 'not made up'

Gulf secrets officer was ill, says RAF psychiatrist

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE WING commander charged with negligence after the theft of Gulf war plans from his car was suffering from a temporary psychiatric illness and incapacitating panic attacks when he left them unattended, a court martial was told yesterday.

Sidney Brandon, civil consultant in psychiatry to the RAF, said that Wing Commander David Farquhar had suffered a panic attack which would "score at the top of the scale" as a result of jet lag, sleep deprivation, exhaustion and the effects of sleeping drugs which he had been taking.

Professor Brandon, of Leicester university, told the court martial at RAF Uxbridge that he thought Tama-zopan sleeping tablets, of which Wing Cdr Farquhar had taken two or three at 3am the previous day, may have been the most important factor.

He said that although the dose was at the top of normal prescriptions, Tama-zopan was known to have dangerous side effects and the effects could last 12 or 14 hours after ingestion. The drug was used in medicine to induce amnesia and one of its characteristics was to interfere with memory.

Earlier the wing commander's wife, Cherry Farquhar, said that she had seen her husband working himself into a state of total exhaustion in his job as staff officer to Air Chief Marshall Patrick Hine, the joint commander-in-chief of British forces in the Gulf.

She said that she saw her husband's personality transformed and his usual good humour replaced by confusion, exhaustion and displays of irritability and frustration.

Professor Brandon said that the evidence was that in the period before losing the plans the wing commander had a significant problem with increasingly impaired efficiency, changes in his sense of humour, extremely laboured thinking, a liability to break down in tears in private and out-of-body experiences.

The professor said he believed that on the day when

Wing Cdr Farquhar ordered his driver to stop their car so that he could go into a car showroom, he had woken up in a confused state, experiencing the first symptoms of a worsening panic attack which could be ascribed to his exhaustion and the effects of the drugs he had been taking without medical supervision.

Professor Brandon said that the symptoms amounted to a psychiatric disorder known as acute organic brain syndrome. Its effect would have been to impair the wing commander's capacity for judgment and rational action. The symptoms might have included palpitations, racing of the pulse, thumping of the heart, pains in the chest, excessive shallow breathing, faintness, dizziness, nausea, sickness, sweating and a need to empty the bowels or bladder.

Those who suffered such attacks, the professor said, might be as many as one in 10 of the population. But they would usually describe the experience as a "sense of impending death, or going out of their mind". The result would be an imperative desire to get away from whatever situation they found themselves in, and the professor said this was entirely consistent with the wing commander's action in leaving the car.

The professor told Group Captain John Weeton, conducting the prosecution: "The description of panic the wing commander gave was so comprehensive that he could not have made it up. There is an internal consistency in his account which makes it extremely unlikely this was a story concocted to mislead the court."

He said that the story which the wing commander told Special Branch detectives four days after losing the plans last December, when he said that he stopped the car so that he could look at cars in the showroom, might have been an attempt to rationalise actions which he could not himself understand.

The case continues today.



On their bikes: PCs Roy Wotten and Nick Walker, and WPC Diane Stewart, geared for action. A safety chain is provided but not a blue light

Police cyclists swoop on thieves in the night

POLICE in Bedfordshire have bought a fleet of mountain bikes to patrol not only rural areas but also urban streets. The force is believed to be the first to use them to cover regular beats and other forces are showing interest.

Bedfordshire has bought six of the 21-speed bikes, costing almost £200 each, and riders are being equipped with specially designed safety helmets with a small peak and the word

"police" front and back. A safety chain is also provided.

During a three-month test around Leighton Buzzard, officers made a dozen arrests for vehicle crimes, including three men found stealing cars. In almost every case the offenders were taken by surprise as police swept down on them silently.

PC Nick Walker, who organised the experiment, said: "Officers saw the benefit of riding at night. They get an adrenalin buzz that

Leighton Buzzard car thieves watch out! The PCs of the mountain bike branch are about, reports Stewart Tandler

they are going to catch someone because they are so quiet and are more alert than they would be in a car."

The experiment began

when Mr Walker, a beat officer covering two villages, suggested looking at bikes for patrolling. He recommended the force try mountain bikes rather than dust off the traditional bikes. The new models were greeted with enthusiasm.

Mr Walker said that as well as being quiet, the bikes were robust and fast, ideal for covering urban beats of three square miles. The handlebars have been raised for greater comfort, but the

bikes will not be equipped with sirens or bells. Police using the bikes respond to 999 calls in their areas in the same way as police cars and compete well with vehicles in their speed of response. If support is needed they can radio for help.

Mr Walker said the experiment showed that the bikes allowed patrolling officers to retain a high degree of contact with the community, bridging the gap between foot patrol and car.

NHS chief calls for more senior women

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH service managers should be penalised financially if they fail to attract more women to senior posts, said a government official.

Eric Caines, NHS personnel manager, said yesterday that quotas should be set for the proportion of women in senior positions in the service to redress the imbalance between the sexes. If managers failed to reach the targets, their performance-related pay could be docked and career advancement impeded, he said.

Although 78 per cent of the

NHS labour force is women, only one of the 14 regional general managers is female and only 5 per cent of the 195 district general managers. Even at senior hospital management level, only 17.6 per cent of the posts are filled by women. Mr Caines said that this proportion should be doubled to between 30 and 40 per cent.

Speaking in Bournemouth at the annual conference of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, Mr Caines said that once women entered middle management they stopped progressing. Just over 40 per cent of middle managers were women.

Positive action was needed to "pull them through" into more senior jobs. "I would make it a requirement of managers at all levels, backed by central directive, that in three years there should be 30 to 40 per cent, or whatever the figure might be, of women at these levels," he said. Soft options such as career breaks and creches were not enough to attract women into the service.

He called for greater local pay flexibility underlining his aim to see national pay bargaining and the Whitley Council system abolished. Women tended to be in the lowest paid jobs.

The present system of "on call" and premium payments for laboratory and nursing staff were the "biggest racket of restrictive practices" he had ever come across. If these premiums, generally paid for working unsocial hours, were abolished, basic pay could be increased.

Earlier, conference delegates heard from Dr Bryan Christopher, a GP fundholder, of East Grinstead, Sussex, that fund holders were being courted by private hospitals offering special deals to attract patients.

Sellafield discharges affecting Scots isles

By OUR SCIENCE EDITOR

PEOPLE in the Western Isles of Scotland have five times normal levels of radioactive caesium in their bodies, in part because of discharges reaching them from the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria.

A study published in today's issue of the *British Medical Journal* suggests that most of the extra caesium comes from local milk and lamb - from livestock which have eaten coastal grasses contaminated with Sellafield waste discharged into the sea. The amounts are very small, within safety limits, but indicate how discharges into the sea can return to land a considerable distance away and enter the human food chain, the authors say.

The findings come from a comparison of caesium levels in blood in 413 patients from the Western Isles, Glasgow, and other parts of Scotland. The measurements were made between 1979 and 1986.

Dr Christopher Isles and colleagues say that the presence of the isotope caesium-134 as well as the more plentiful caesium-137 points the finger at Sellafield. Reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel produces caesium-134, weapons testing does not.

The actual amounts of radioactivity detected, at 13.7 microsieverts per year for the average islander, are a very small fraction of total radiation from all natural sources, estimated at 2,500 microsieverts a year in Britain.

Radioactive material was found in vegetables on an allotment after a contaminated storage drum stolen from a nuclear research base was used as a water butt, according to a report from Harwell laboratory in Oxfordshire.

Greater flexibility for GCSE pupils

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRIGHT children will be able to take their GCSEs a year early and then drop compulsory national curriculum lessons, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said yesterday.

Schools will have to enter whole classes whose pupils will be expected to achieve grades A to C, but children who do badly will not have to retake the examination, the education department said.

The change is one of a number to allow more flexibility in the school timetable so that children can take subjects outside the legally required curriculum, such as an additional foreign language and the classics, the three sciences, or vocational courses.

Mr Clarke's announcement confirms earlier decisions on lessons for pupils aged 14 to 16. Children will be required to take only mathematics, science and English at GCSE

although they will have to take courses in a modern language and technology, but not necessarily at GCSE.

The government yesterday defended its decision to block publication of an English grammar manual for schools which it had commissioned as part of a £21 million project into the teaching of English.

Language in the *National Curriculum*, was not being published because it gave the dangerous impression that "ungrammatical or badly presented work should be understood and condoned rather than corrected", Tim Eggar, the education minister said.

Writing in this week's *Times Educational Supplement*, Mr Eggar says that he accepts that there is a place for dialect and that different forms of English could be used for different purposes but that children must be taught how to use the language correctly.

Calculated beginning for 'first' computer

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

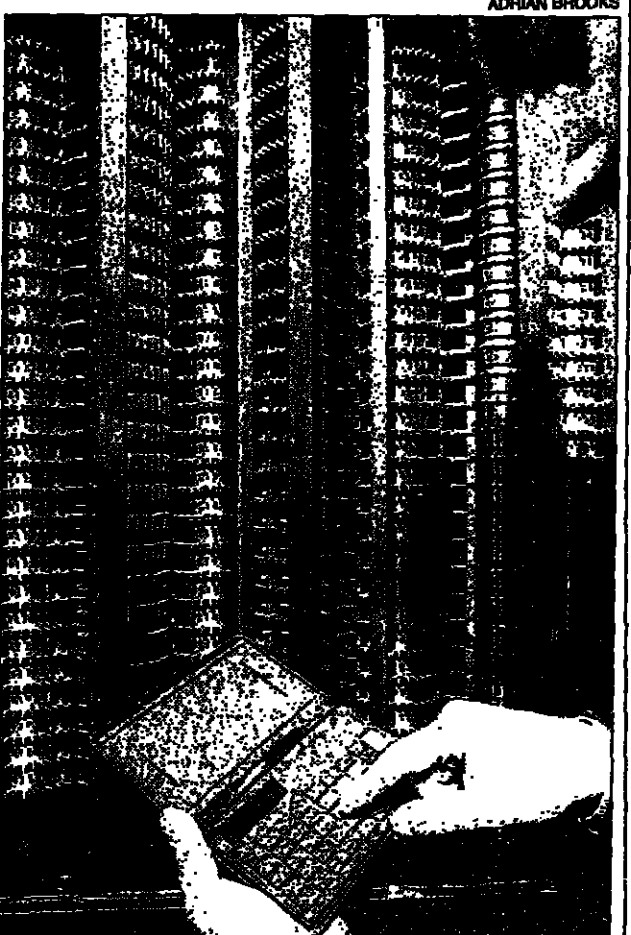
AT THE turn of a handle, the computer's earliest ancestor creaked into life yesterday at the Science Museum, south Kensington. Wheels turned, huge vertical rods bobbed, and the man turning the handle began breathing more deeply. History was being made as Charles Babbage's difference engine no 2 ground out the digits as its inventor intended.

True, it was not given a very demanding task on its first public outing since being constructed by the museum to mark the 200th anniversary of Babbage's birth. Three tons of bronze, cast iron and steel was being used to add a series of zeroes together.

Doron Swade, the museum's curator of computing, said that the mechanism for "carrying" digits needed a final adjustment before he would dare display the machine's full capabilities in public. Secretly, however, he and the two museum engineers who have put the machine together, Reg Crick and Barrie Hollaway, have used it to work out a table of X to the power of seven and, with just a few exceptions, got the right answers.

The difference engine no 2 was designed between 1847 and 1849 as a way of mechanising the production of arithmetic, logarithmic and navigational tables. Like Babbage's other mechanical computers, the first difference engine and the even more ambitious analytical engine, it was never completed, in spite of the investment of substantial public funds.

The idea of building it came from Allan Bromley, an Australian computer specialist from the university of Sydney. From the piles of drawings left by Babbage he estimated that the engine could be built for £250,000. His estimate was closer than Babbage ever came, for the construction, supported by five British computer companies, cost £300,000.



Relative values: Babbage's difference engine no 2 dwarfs its hand-held micro chip successor

Queen takes the fast train to Scotland

By ALAN HAMILTON

WHEN Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603, the court messenger Sir Robert Ponsonby wore out many sweating horses riding to Edinburgh in a record-breaking three days with the news for King James VI that the London job was his. James's direct descendant will repeat the journey today in four hours and 45 minutes which, speedy though it is, is not as fast as it could be.

When British Rail's £300 million east-coast electrified service opens to the public next month, the twin capitals of Britain will be but four hours and three minutes apart, including stops at Newcastle upon Tyne and York, shaving half an hour off the present best time. The Queen will inaugurate the service at a slightly more leisurely pace today because, according to a British Rail spokesman, there is simply no good reason for her to go any faster.

When the Queen last took the train to Scotland, to attend the Gulf memorial

service in Glasgow cathedral, the engine broke down and the normally split-second sovereign arrived at her devotions 20 minutes late and not in the best of humours. Before leaving King's Cross this morning, the Queen will try to bestow better fortune on the locomotive of the day by naming it Queen Elizabeth II. She should be aware that a previous experiment in such benevolent nomenclature by this newspaper ended in failure. A locomotive named The Times crashed soon after its christening, and only the nameplate survives.

Accompanied by Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, and Sir Bob Reid, the British Rail chairman, the Queen will travel north at under 100mph in a new-generation 225 train capable of doing 140mph - although not with existing track and signalling equipment, which British Rail may subsequently upgrade if the popularity of the new service makes it worthwhile

financially. The train will stop at Newcastle for 20 minutes to allow the Queen to unveil a plaque commemorating her journey and to meet 12 civic leaders from the principal towns along her route. She would be well advised, however, not to honour any of them. When Queen Victoria first crossed the old Tay bridge on her way to Balmoral in 1879 she knighted the designer, Sir Thomas Bouch. Six months later the bridge blew down and took a train and 75 passengers to the bottom of the river.

The Queen's journey marks the start of the court's annual week at the Palace of Holyrood house, a reminder that Britain is a union of two kingdoms. In recent years the Queen has been in the habit of travelling to Edinburgh by air. If today's train performs as British Rail prays it will, she may consider using it again considering that, given a Rolls and a police escort, Holyrood is a convenient five minutes from Waverley station.

SATURDAY REVIEW

GENDER VENGEANCE



'Only over the past year have American men started showing signs that they are feeling the heat from the rise of feminine power'

Charles Bremner on why Geena Davis (above) has got men on the run

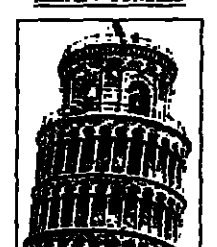
WORD BIND



'For a writer who seemed to conjure the stuff of drama from the air, this is an unwelcome barrenness. He keeps dithering at bay by evaluating this block, if block it is, as though it were the property of a third person'

Alan Franks finds Tom Stoppard blocked, but not crying professional foul

LEAN TIMES



'In the age-old debate over whether the tower's builders wilfully eschewed the perpendicular to create the world's most enduring architectural joke, the intentionalists are rapidly losing ground to the accidentalists'

In spite of a recent change of direction, Alan Hamilton finds the chronic leaning towards the acute in Pisa

SIMMER TIME?



It will get hot, surely? And when it does, choose the clothes that will cool the temper as well as the body. Liz Smith reports

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Family MPs win enquiry into late Commons hours

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FULL review of the operation of the Commons, including MPs' working hours, was announced yesterday after growing pressure for change from backbenchers, particularly women and those with young families.

The investigation into the procedures and hours of the Commons is to be carried out by a specially created select committee on sittings of the House which is expected to issue its report early next year. The first review for more than 20 years of MPs' working hours will also look at the way public and private business is dealt with by the Commons, the ordering and timing of business, the length of parliamentary sessions and the hours that the House sits each day. It will look at the possibility of morning sittings of the House, fewer late nights and four rather than three sessions of Parliament a year.

The campaign for reform has been fuelled by the arrival in 10 Downing Street of John Major who is more sympathetic to the arguments for change that received a boost during the Tory leadership contest when Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, called for working practices to be altered. Mr Major is keen to see more women MPs and hopes that the enquiry could lead to an increase in their number.

However, other senior ministers believe that the lack of women MPs is less to do with the way the Commons operates and more to do with the constituency selection processes of both main parties.

The new select committee will be chaired by Michael Jopling, Conservative MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale and a former government chief whip, and will include Sir Peter Emery, chairman of the House's procedure committee. It will also include women MPs and newer members and will be allowed to visit Australia and Canada to see how their legislatures work.

Announcing the select committee, John MacGregor, leader of the House, said that, although some changes in working practices and procedures had been introduced, there was now a need for a wider and deeper look at our procedures and the hours we sit. However, he told MPs that, although there was consensus on the need for a review, there was widespread disagreement on possible changes.

The select committee will look at the changes in complexity and quantity of government business and EC legislation during the past 30 years and the effect that has had on the balance between business taken on the floor of the House and business taken upstairs in committees. It will also study the growth in importance of select committees and the changing demands made upon MPs in their constituency work.

On average, the Commons sits for nine hours a day, including the shorter day on Friday from 9.30am to 3pm. On about four-fifths of Mondays to Thursdays when the Commons sits at 2.30pm, MPs sit later than 10.30pm.

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Out of the mouths: Harriet Harman visiting a nursery yesterday while campaigning with Peter Kilfoyle, Labour candidate in the Liverpool, Walton by-election. (Ronald Faux writes). The health service has been a key issue in the by-election, called after Eric Heffer's death, with local hospitals planning to opt out. Mrs Harman, a Labour health spokesman, appealed to Liverpool hospitals yesterday to ban queue-jumping deals which, she said, could be sought by doctors who ran their own budgets.

Submarine cut attacked

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to reduce the Royal Navy's diesel-powered submarine fleet to four boats were criticised by MPs yesterday. There should be a minimum of six, they said in a report.

MPs on the Commons defence committee said that they were far from satisfied with the proposal, announced by

Tom King, defence secretary, last year, to cut the diesel boats from nine to four. Nuclear submarines are being reduced to 12.

Under present plans, the navy will retain four Upholder class diesel boats. The older Oberon class submarines are to be withdrawn from service. The MPs said that some of

the Oberon boats should be kept in service with the Upholders. Unlike nuclear boats, diesel-powered boats could operate in shallow water. They were also quieter and could lie on the seabed in silence, virtually undetectable.

The defence committee also said that the total of 12 nuclear submarines was the "barest minimum" required, adding that it was surprised the government was not studying the possible introduction of sea-launched cruise missiles in submarines. The MPs called for a study of the viability of deploying the missiles with conventional warheads. They also urged the defence ministry to look into the possible development of a submarine missile system as a protection against anti-submarine helicopters.

Britain's industrial base for the design and manufacture of submarines was being left "perilously close to the edge", the report said and added that it was essential that the ministry kept a close eye on industrial developments to ensure that key submarine manufacturing capabilities were not irreversibly lost.

Trident: If the Conservatives placed an order for a fourth Trident nuclear submarine before the election, a Labour government would reserve the right to look at the contract and decide whether to cancel.

Martin O'Neill, Labour defence spokesman, made clear during yesterday's Commons debate on the Royal Navy that Labour would not order a fourth boat. The party did not consider that one was needed and it had never argued for one. It was a luxury that the country did not need.

He urged speed in placing contracts for the three new frigates announced yesterday because one of the most disturbing messages he got from shipyards, successful and unsuccessful bidders, was of the cynical approach of the defence procurement executive which allowed orders to slip, and then requested further tenders, causing further delay.

Royal Navy Submarines, Commons defence committee (Stationery Office, £18.15).



Major in plea for ex-spy's family

The prime minister is to press President Gorbachev to allow the wife and two daughters of the former Russian spy, Oleg Gordievsky, to join him in Britain.

During question time in the Commons, Mr Major said that he and other ministers had raised the case before and officials had had talks about it. He would raise it again when he next met the Soviet leader. Mr Gordievsky is due in London next month at the end of the G7 summit.

The daughters Mariya, aged 12, and Anna, aged 10, and their mother, Liela, are banned from leaving the Soviet Union.

Any answers?

Nearly 28,000 people were interviewed last year, at a cost of £2,300,000, so that the environment department could find out more about the effects of its policies and programmes, Michael Heseltine, environment secretary, said in a written reply.

Disaster lines

A new system is being prepared to inform relatives and friends about casualties after disasters, John Patten, a Home Office minister, told the Commons that the new system would enable incoming calls to be dealt with by different police forces using up to 500 telephone lines.

Guardsmen



The government came under renewed pressure to pay compensation to the three Grenadier guardsmen who lost legs in a training accident in Canada in July 1989. David Winnick (above), Labour MP for Walsall North, said that there was a strong feeling among senior Grenadier officers that the men should receive compensation. Why was the government determined that these three soldiers should continue to suffer? John MacGregor, leader of the House, said that the case could be raised on Monday during a Commons debate on the army.

Labour to publish anti-secrecy bill

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DRAFT freedom of information bill is to be published by Labour in the autumn as part of its drive to provide people with greater access to information held in the public and private sector.

The Opposition is studying how to ensure that companies make available more details to the public, particularly where their activities could affect health, environmental and safety matters.

Roy Hattersley said that a freedom of information act must apply to more than the public sector and that protection for the consumer could not be limited to guarantees that did not cover private industry.

"Private companies have obligations and duties," he said. "We want safety assur-

ances from public and private corporations. Obligations to the consumer must be extended from the public to the private sector. They should be obliged to provide good services and to provide the information to enable a consumer to judge whether the service is good enough."

The Opposition proposes that a freedom of information bill will give people the right to see and copy official information held by central, regional and local government within 30 days of making the request and the right to have misleading or inaccurate personal information corrected or deleted. An information appeal tribunal would be set up to deal with refusals by private-sector or public corporations to provide information.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Debate on the army.
Tuesday: Debates on Opposition motions on housing and on the electricity and gas industries.

Wednesday: Debates on aid to Iraqi refugees and on unemployment.

Thursday: Debates on the steel industry and on hospital waiting lists.

Friday: Private members' bills.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Planning and compensation bill, Commons amendments.

Tuesday: Atomic Weapons Establishment bill, committee.

Wednesday: Criminal justice bill, Commons amendments.

Thursday: School teachers' pay and conditions bill, committee.

Friday: Armed Forces bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on anti-social behaviour.

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John, Michael

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

Philip Howard, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Mr Major also promised a full programme of legislation for the parliamentary session beginning in the autumn including an education bill to "transform" further and higher education.

Philip Howard, page 14
Leading article, page 15

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Although only four Conservative women have been selected to fight Tory-held seats in the next general election, Lady Seccombe said younger women were coming forward to join the candidates' list. The party also needed high calibre women councillors.



By JOE JOSEPH

"I've been coming ever since I married my husband," Lady McNair-Wilson, wife of the Tory MP for

At last, a blue-rinse Tory. Applauding Mr Major's speech. But just as I move towards her she leaves the

room, behind Mr Major and his mysterious "something else to do". It didn't seem polite to follow.

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Afternoon opening plan suggested for Sunday traders

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

DISTRICT council leaders in England and Wales yesterday offered the government a way out of the legal and political impasse over Sunday trading which has left local authorities powerless to enforce controls on garden centres, DIY stores and out-of-town shopping centres.

The Association of District Councils tabled proposals at its annual conference in Brighton which Roy Thomason, the chairman, said were a workable compromise.

The scheme, which allows trading between midday and 6pm on Sundays, was welcomed by the two pressure groups campaigning for and against Sunday trading. Keep Sunday Special, which opposes Sunday opening, said

that the plan was the biggest step forward in six years while the Shopping Hours Reform Council said that it was very good as far as it went.

The proposal, which has been sent to the Home Office, calls for a change in the law to regulate the type of premises allowed to open instead of the type of goods sold, as at present. Shops selling gardening and DIY materials would have an automatic right to open between noon and 6pm. Others with a floor space of less than 3,000 sq ft would be allowed to open without restriction.

Mr Thomason said: "We are sympathetic to people's desire to keep Sunday different from the rest of the week and to the rights of the

individual not to work on a Sunday if desired. But the status quo is completely unacceptable. Our compromise responds to these views. Sunday is a day of leisure, and DIY, gardening and going to the video shop are recreational activities."

During a heated debate, delegates condemned the present legal system as unworkable. However, a vote on a motion calling for the abolition of all Sunday trading laws was inconclusive. The result of a card vote on the issue will be announced today.

Derek Holley, a councillor on Huntingdonshire district council, said: "You can get drunk on a Sunday and you can even buy a girlie magazine but you cannot buy a Bible unless you go to a railway station."

Chris Clarke, of Mendip council, Somerset, said: "The law discriminates against small traders. We can close the little traders but we cannot touch the big ones."

Dolores Martell, a Conservative councillor for Surrey Heath council, said that her authority had even considered prosecuting a local church for selling goods on a Sunday in aid of Third World charities. "We believe in obeying the law and being even-handed. But as it stands the law is ridiculous," she said.



Dark past: the cells are inspected by Beryl Docherty, college cook, Stephen Singer, assistant schoolkeeper, Denys Avis, project co-ordinator, and students

Prison reopens to captivate tourists

CELLS beneath the ground which two centuries ago held highwaymen, footpads and pickpockets are to reopen in January for tourists.

Visitors to the House of Detention, Clerkenwell, central London, beneath Kingsway College performing arts centre, will be able to chart three centuries of crime and punishment. The cells were closed at the turn of the century but were used as air raid shelters during the second world war.

Among exhibits will be displays on Jack Shepherd, the highwayman hanged at Tyburn, and the equipment used by the last official hangman, Albert Pierrepoint.



Visiting time: from a contemporary engraving

Local authorities urged to adopt rule by cabinet

By OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS for an overhaul of the running of local authorities in England and Wales were approved by the cabinet yesterday. Ministers endorsed a consultation paper, to be published next month, which calls for a big reduction in the number of council committees and suggests setting up Downing Street-style cabinets to run local authorities.

The green paper on the internal management of local authorities is the third and final consultation paper prompted by the government's poll tax review. The first two, proposing the council tax and the abolition of one of the two tiers of local government in England, Wales and Scotland, have been published.

The latest paper will urge councils to divide their elected members into executive and representative groups. The former will become a policy-making committee and the latter will concentrate on representing constituencies.

The cabinet confirmed its rejection of proposals by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, for elected mayors to run large cities. The idea might, however, still appear in the published document to enable Mr Heseltine to save face. A senior source said, however, that the chances of the policy becoming a reality were now very remote. Ministers have been under pressure from Conservative backbenchers to veto the plan because they fear that elected mayors would challenge their role as the principal spokesmen for their areas.

There was agreement on plans to encourage councils to reduce the number of committees and to appoint executive groups to oversee policy making. The recommendations in the green paper draw heavily on a report last year by the Audit Commission, which urged councillors to devote more time to policy making and less to detailed involvement in the day-to-day running of their council. The commission highlighted two unnamed education authorities, one of which held 32 committee meetings a year to allocate a budget of £230 million, while the other, with a budget of £160 million, convened 302 meetings.

As the cabinet met to discuss the document, Portsmouth city council announced plans to replace its seven main committees with two. Under plans initiated before last month's local government elections, at which the Conservatives lost control to a Labour and Liberal Democrat alliance, the council will have

Bank man cheated on cheques

A bank's computer operator cheated it of £10,000 and deposited the money with a rival next door. Hull crown court was told yesterday.

Andrew Nutbrown, aged 19, of Bransholme, Humberside, made out sums to himself from stolen temporary cheques. He mutilated the cheques so that they would be returned to the originating branch, where he destroyed them. He was sentenced to 12 months at a young offenders' institution after admitting theft and deception.

Appeal dropped

Karyn Smith, aged 20, from Solihull, appeared before a Bangkok court to withdraw her appeal against a 25-year sentence for drug smuggling. She intends to apply for a Thai royal pardon. Her friend, Patricia Cahill, aged 18, has been sentenced to 18 years.

PC stab case

David Anthony Moss, aged 24, of Hackney, north London, will appear in court today accused of the attempted murder of Ian Stanley, aged 19, a probationer policeman who was stabbed in a Clapton churchyard on Wednesday. PC Stanley's hospital condition yesterday was much improved.

Mother's gift

Mrs Carole Hill, a shop assistant at Arnold, Nottinghamshire, has donated one of her kidneys to Ian, her son aged 19, after he was taken ill with kidney failure.

'Horror's' shock

A central stage-prop of the touring musical *The Little Shop of Horrors*, the 24ft head of a green man-eating monster, was stolen from a lorry at Crawley, Sussex.

Birmingham lends a hand to Moscow

By CRAIG SETON

OFFICIALS from Moscow are the latest from a number of Eastern European city authorities to approach Labour-run Birmingham city council for advice on improving the running of their municipalities.

Bypassing Westminster, Wandsworth and other proclaimed flagships of Conservative efficiency, the leaders of the Soviet counterparts in Birmingham to send them a team from the council's forward consultancy unit, which has a reputation for eradicating paperwork and streamlining the provision of services.

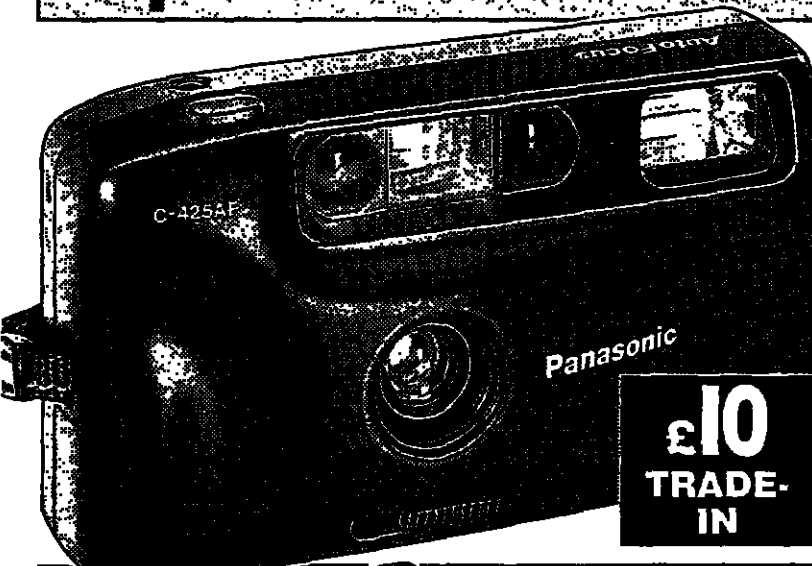
The invitation from Moscow is regarded as something of an accolade by the Labour-led council, the largest city authority in Britain, which has frequently faced allegations of wastefulness and inefficiency in running its own affairs.

The Moscow approach is one of several from councils in Eastern Europe and follows a decision in Birmingham to look for profitable new busi-

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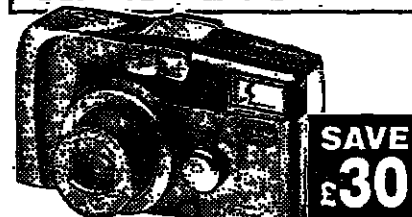
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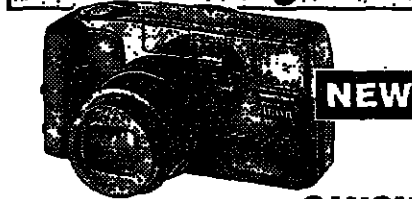
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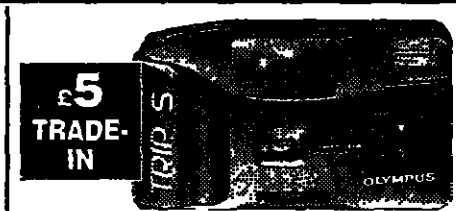
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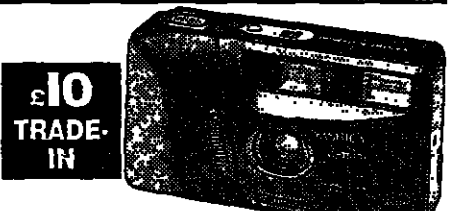
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Defiant Croat leader ready to pay cost of freedom

By DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CROATIA'S embattled president, Franjo Tudjman, said yesterday that his republic and the neighbouring breakaway republic of Slovenia would not be blackmailed by a "neo-communist federal Yugoslav government which has openly threatened to use military force to stop the will of the people".

Mr Tudjman said James Baker, the US Secretary of State, had urged Slovenia and Croatia to negotiate. "But he apparently fails to realise that this gives the communists veto power over all dialogue," Mr Tudjman said in *The New York Times*.

"We have negotiated for over a year and have met with nothing but smug intransigence. There is no incentive for the communists to negotiate — the Western powers are too busy admonishing the young democracies to remain a part of a dying and discredited political system."

The "tanks of the tyrants" were rolling into Croatia and Slovenia much as they had rolled into Hungary 35 years ago, Mr Tudjman said. Yet there had been no admonishment from Mr Baker over the "absolute lunacy of the army mobilisation".

Mr Tudjman declared that neither tanks nor Mr Baker's lack of support and under-

standing would stop Croatia. "We are fully aware of our choices; we are fully aware of our place in the European community; we are fully aware, just as Americans were aware 200 years ago, of the costs of freedom."

Slovenia and Croatia meanwhile boycotted a meeting of Yugoslavia's federal presidency yesterday, while the country was described as a "powder keg" by Washington. Macedonia also stayed away from the talks. Croatia made it clear it fears troops may move against it after yesterday's display of force in Slovenia.

The state presidency, with only five of its eight members present, lent its weight to the army intervention, but again failed to resolve the impasse arising from Serbia's refusal to allow Stipe Mesic, a Croat, to take his place as president.

The United States and the EC both told Yugoslavia's foreign minister, Budimir Loncar, that it was crucial for the army's blockade of Slovenia to be lifted. Slovenia refuses to attend a meeting of the presidency until federal troops are withdrawn.

The Yugoslav federal prime minister, Ante Markovic, and his defence and foreign ministers also stayed away.

Leading article, page 15



Shattered illusions: a Yugoslav soldier examining the bullet holes yesterday in a window damaged in clashes between Croats and Serbs at Glina, Croatia

Army caught in political crossfire

From ROGER BOYES IN ZAGREB

THE Yugoslav army is the one remaining, functioning federal organisation in the country. There are more than 6,000 Croats and almost 3,000 Slovenes in the regular army and their loyalty in any confrontation with the breakaway republics must be in question.

The conscript part of the army is less vulnerable, however, since Croats and Slovenes have been avoiding conscription and signing up for their own republican self-defence forces. The two republics appear to have prepared for the worst. The federal interior ministry announced earlier this month that Slovenia and Croatia had drawn up a secret "defence and security alliance" to prepare for an attack. Thousands of automatic weapons have been pouring in from Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and America, and the weaponry in Croatia includes advanced anti-tank systems and mines.

Much depends now on the political skills of General Veljko Kadijevic, the defence minister, and of Ante Markovic, the prime minister. Both men are careful about the use of force, but there is still support in the Serbian-dominated army leadership for a

military solution. General Kadijevic seems to understand, however, that Yugoslavia cannot be held together by a multinational army.

His instinct has been to keep the army as distant as possible from ethnic politics. In spite of attempts by the Serbian communist leadership to drag the army into the crossfire — tanks were called out in Belgrade on March 9 to put down anti-communist rallies — the general sees the army as a neutral political force. Its overwhelming constitutional role is to preserve the integrity of Yugoslavia. Its practical task is to act as a peacekeeping buffer between, say, Serbian radicals and the Croatian authorities.

If the army attacked the independent republics in the name of preserving Yugoslavia, it would lose the neutrality it needs for its peacekeeping role. To the Croats and Slovenes, the Yugoslav army would unambiguously have become the Serbian army. An attack would, in any case, trigger a civil war that General Kadijevic wants to avoid. Yet the alternative is to do nothing — thus joining the long list of Yugoslav federal institutions that have lost their meaning.

Ukraine blow to treaty

Moscow — The Ukrainian parliament voted yesterday to delay discussion of a proposed new union treaty, ending President Gorbachev's hopes for quick approval of his plan to preserve the Soviet Union.

Deputies voted by a big majority to suspend consideration of the draft treaty until September to allow experts to assess if its terms contradict the republic's declaration of sovereignty last year.

The proposal to delay work on the treaty, put forward by the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kravchuk, appeared to be an attempt to find a compromise between conservative Communists who back the treaty and the nationalist opposition. (Reuter)

Yeltsin pay deal

Moscow — The Russian parliament voted a monthly salary of 4,000 roubles, £4,000 at the official exchange rate, for Boris Yeltsin, the republic's president. He will earn almost twice as much as President Gorbachev. (AFP)

Steel guitar

Oslo — Hildur Holst, aged 60, picked up a guitar and laid flat a 26-year-old man who broke into her Vannvaag home armed with a knife.

Prison reopens to captivate tourists

Local authorities urged to adopt rule by cabinet

Bank cheats on cheques



Comrades escape to rural idyll

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

To see Russians work on their dachas — almost anything from wooden shacks to brick-built palaces — is to glimpse another Russia where the individual, not the collective, rules.

Hundreds of thousands of Russians set off each weekend for their dachas and potato plots alongside for a couple of days in the countryside. The more fortunate leave Moscow on Friday afternoon in a car packed with food, vodka, wood, bricks, the children, the family dog and a can of petrol to make sure they can all get back again. The less fortunate stream on to

fence around. The woodwork is carved, the design in white, and a rickety bench stands in front for enjoying the evening sun.

While there is much communing with nature at the dacha, much deep breathing of country air and tramping through birch groves for mushrooms, isolation from humankind is not the main idea. Dachas tend to nestle close together in shady hollows which fill quickly with mud at the first hint of rain.

Like the Englishman's garden, the Russian's dacha is never finished. It evolves, swallowing hours of work, thousands of roubles and much loving care. Summer after summer it is extended, patched up, improved and re-equipped as taste and means permit, then packed up again for the winter.

But the rural idyll is not untrammelled. Since the cities introduced rationing last year, the country folk refuse to let the townspeople use their shops, leaving them to buy at private rates or go hungry. Thefts from dachas are increasing, in spite of locked gates, shutters and private security guards. Above all, there is envy of the dacha itself.

People who quietly accept the blatant privilege of the rulers in the capital draw the line at dachas. An industry of scandal-mongering has built up about which official has bought his dacha from the state at what knockdown rate in what secluded location and with what extravagant services thrown in.

For those without such advantages, notices about vacant dachas start appearing long before the winter is out. This year, too, the newly diversified urban press has launched a multitude of new publications for the freelance peasant.

The hectic weekend of fieldwork over, the reluctant proletarians make their way home. Broken-down cars are skewed across the near side every hundred yards or so awaiting help, their owners anticipating a week of rest and relaxation at their overmanned factory before real life resumes on Friday.



GED

the local trains from 5 am, four or five members of the same family bent double under the weight of their scythes and bundles, looking every inch the peasants from whom most are descended.

Even with their burdens, three-quarters of the way through a stifling June, these dachniki are sitting pretty. They are the ones who, by dint of contacts, money, accident of inheritance or just plain luck, have a place in the country.

In its classic form, the dacha is a blue or green painted wooden house with two or three rooms and a

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SEALINK STENA LINE

How Twelve line up in summit debate on Europe's future



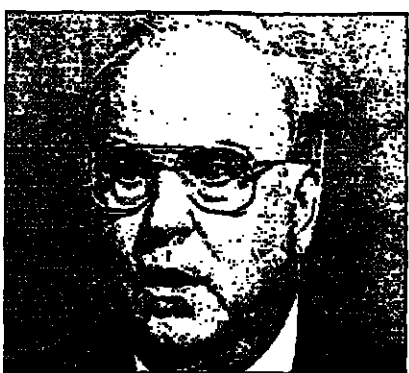
John Major: Britain

Mystifies his peers with combination of personal friendliness and obduracy on what they see as main issues of draft treaty. Will not sign up to anything specific, while being as polite as possible to prevent any potential explosion.



François Mitterrand: France

As France favours a "federal goal", he will argue for greater community powers, but against new powers for the European parliament. He will argue for a common foreign and defence policy, as long as France can pursue its own interests.



Helmut Kohl: Germany

German opinion favours federalism. Regions think it would strengthen them against Bonn and Berlin. He will argue for greater powers for the European parliament but will continue cautious about details of monetary union.



Giulio Andreotti: Italy

The grandfather of the gathering, he is usually seen gazing indulgently at the antics of Gianni De Michelis, his foreign minister. Although Italy is passionately pro-federal, ministers will argue against ambushing Britain.



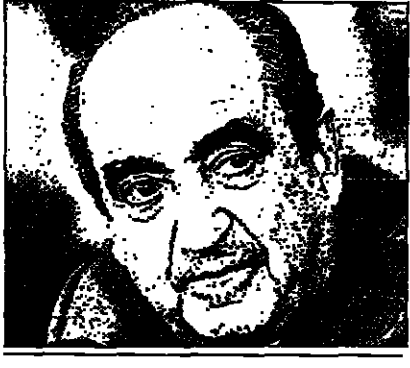
Felipe González: Spain

Reluctant candidate on short list to succeed Delors as head of Commission at end of 1992. Spain leads "Club Med" of Italy, Greece and Portugal demanding transfer of funds from north to south, using threat to block treaty as lever.



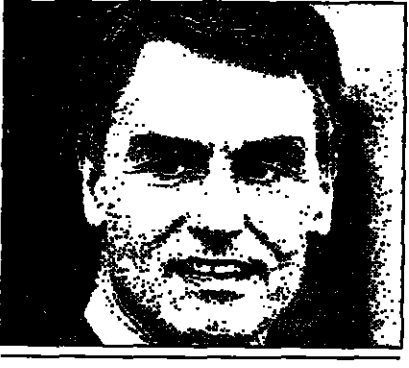
Ruud Lubbers: Netherlands

Favoured to succeed Jacques Delors. His country is committed to a federal Europe and will take over European presidency at the climax of negotiations in December. Supports need for treaty to accommodate wishes of all 12 member states.



Constantine Mitsotakis: Greece

Greece is an economic basket case. Worried about being left behind by monetary union, and also worried about being included without being paid large amounts of compensation. Will go along with Mediterranean majority.



Aníbal Cavaco Silva: Portugal

Self-effacing man from bottom of economic league table. Portugal supports British opposition to the word "federal" and shares its doubts about including defence in the treaty and boosting the power of the European parliament.



Wilfried Martens: Belgium

Influential in group of six Christian Democratic prime ministers who back European union, although they did not mention "federal" when they last met a week ago. Backs most ambitious programmes; wants to push Britain harder.



Jacques Santer: Luxembourg

Host and chairman. Likely to put pressure on Britain and others unenthused about strengthening European parliament. Hopes to end his country's presidency this weekend with more than a situation report to show for it.



Poul Schlüter: Denmark

Answerable to a parliament which defends its sovereignty as fiercely as the House of Commons. Denmark is economically very dependent on Germany so he will make the right European noises but will not look for trouble.



Charles Haughey: Ireland

Dislikes the entire debate about common foreign and defence policy which threatens the Irish Republic's traditional neutrality. Also in British corner resisting draft treaty proposals to extend the power of the European parliament.

EC ranks split over new role for parliament

In the last of *The Times* series on the draft EC union treaty, Michael Binyon reports on the divisive issue of greater power for the European parliament

INCREASING the powers of the European parliament, an issue eclipsed by the debate over common foreign and defence policies, may turn out to be the most divisive issue in the draft on European political union. Not only does it pit many MEPs against their national parliaments — especially Westminster, it also sets the French and Germans on opposite sides, and creates tension between Strasbourg and the European Commission in Brussels.

Britain and France, with strong national parliaments, have no wish to increase the powers of MEPs, except in limited fields. Other countries with weak central parliaments, such as Italy and Belgium, believe that Strasbourg must play a bigger role. Germany is the main champion of parliament.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, has insisted that reform must be agreed before the coming European elections, and has refused to allow economic and monetary union to go ahead with parallel increases in the parliament's powers. Bonn believes that a new European central bank must be independent, accountable to parliament rather than to national governments, and therefore wants to give Strasbourg political credibility.

The Commission also is jealous of any parliamentary intrusion on its monopoly of legislative initiative. For the past three years relations between Strasbourg and Brussels have steadily deteriorated as Jacques Delors, the Commission president, has accused the 518 MEPs, and especially the leaders of the political groups, of frustrating the legislative timetable and opposing Brussels directives solely as a lever to increase their power. Under the treaty

terms the European parliament would see its first increase in power since the Single European Act gave it the "co-operation procedure". This gave parliament the right to a second reading of single market legislation with the power to vote for amendments that, if accepted by the Commission, could only be thrown out by the Council of Ministers.

Parliament would have the power to vote on the appointment of the president of the European Commission and fellow commissioners, whose nomination must be approved as a whole. It could not sack individual commissioners. The treaty does not go nearly as far in giving parliament legislative co-decision, as parliament, acting on a report by the Labour MEP David Martin, demanded in its submission. Brussels retains the monopoly of initiative. But parliament now has much wider powers of inspection, supervision and investigation.

The draft proposed the right to set up a temporary committee of enquiry "to investigate, without prejudice to the powers conferred by the treaty on other institutions or bodies, alleged contraventions or maladministration in the implementation of community law." The only exception would be if the facts were before a court.

EC citizens, singly or in groups, would also have the right to address petitions to parliament, which would appoint an independent ombudsman to receive them. The ombudsman must tell the institutions concerned of his findings, and give them three months to reply before forwarding his report.

Philip Howard, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Four steps to reach agreement

THE summit should be a "stepping stone" to a treaty on monetary and political union at the end of the year, with the focus on four topics (George Brock writes)

1. Powers of the European parliament. Eight governments and the European Commission want it to be able to veto some community laws. Britain opposes this.

2. "Cohesion" — the EC term for transfers of money from the richer northern economies to poorer southern states.

3. Foreign policy, including a possible EC defence policy. Distinction is confused by use of "security policy" in draft.

4. Convergence of European economies so that single currency can be considered. The draft proposes no imposition of a single currency on any government; no veto by any single country on progress by others; and no forcible exclusion of weaker economies.

Twin pillars of Kremlin's power fall without regrets

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Warsaw Pact and Comecon, twin pillars on which Soviet military and economic power in Eastern Europe rested for more than 40 years, will be formally dismantled this weekend, lamented by their members and without any successors in sight.

Comecon, the nine-nation Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, will be dissolved in Budapest today, its demise underwritten by trade and economics ministers from the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Vietnam and Cuba. On Monday the remaining political organisation of the Warsaw Pact will be wound up in Prague. Its military structure was dissolved in March.

Comecon, founded in 1949 to strengthen Moscow's hold over the satellite East European economies, attempted to

allocate specific manufacturing activities to the planned economies of its communist members. It operated a form of barter trade based on a notional currency, the transferable rouble, depending on the Soviet Union for cheap energy and on more technically advanced countries such as East Germany for finished products.

Comecon maintained an uncompetitive market with no incentive for innovation. Quality fell behind, and the world market for once thriving industries in Czechoslovakia and Hungary was virtually ruined. Comecon tried to modernise its structure by introducing market prices and hard currency on January 1 this year, but no member has the dollar reserves to buy on the previous scale, and intra-bloc trade has suffered a catastrophic fall. This collapse has worried the

leaders of the new East European democracies and Western trading partners, especially the European Community. The former Comecon headquarters in Moscow will now be turned over to another use, while the members discuss new, looser trading links. Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland are trying to resurrect trade between them with proposals for a free trade zone.

East Europe's former political integration will also be dissolved when the Warsaw Pact is abolished on Monday. The political arm was never important and the pact has ceased to have military significance. But its disappearance will underline the feelings of insecurity among its former members, who have been rebuffed in attempts to join Nato and who are now proposing bilateral security arrangements with each other.

Major's easy days draw to an end

From GEORGE BROCK
IN LUXEMBOURG

IN THE seven months since Margaret Thatcher went, British diplomacy in Europe has experienced its own perestroika. Officials putting the British case on anything from South African sanctions to sausages no longer have to look over their shoulders to Downing Street.

But the tone of the parliamentary debates in London has brought back some of the old caution. "You wouldn't possibly sell that to the House of Commons," British officials in Brussels say.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has asked all ministers to make European policy a matter of potential allies in mind. He himself has mastered the technique of solid obduracy inside the meeting room combined with sweet reasonableness at the press conference afterwards.

The key adviser to John Major, the prime minister, and Mr Hurd at European summits is Sir John Kerr, the wily, chain-smoking British ambassador to the EC. Partnered by Nigel Wickes, the head of the Treasury's international department, Sir John is the government's main treaty negotiator.

All that British policy in Europe lacks is a coherent central aim. Emile Noel, the Frenchman who established and ran the administration of the European Commission for 30 years, used to say that the British delegation at the EC was a Rolls-Royce which never drove in top gear.

The delegation, formally the UK Permanent Representation to the EC, is universally known in Brussels as "Ukrepp". Every nationality admires its incisive and well-briefed intervention on the cornflake content directive. Need a wrinkle smoothed out in the draft communiqué? Call the Brits.

But British officials are incessantly asked what they want in the long term and are stuck for an agreed answer. Germany genuinely wants to melt into a wider Europe. France wants to lead Europe away from America's shadow. The southern countries want money. Britain ... wants an ombudsman at the European parliament, and even that idea was Danish.

Britain does have objectives in the treaty conference: keeping foreign policy and policing separate from the community, improving financial accountability and redrafting the clause on subsidiarity, which is supposed to distribute powers to the lowest appropriate level of government. But none of the items on this shopping list can conceal the depth of British disagreement with the aim of a single currency, the extension of both community powers and majority voting or the inclusion of defence in the community's future plans.

All Britain's partners are now aware that the affability and technical proficiency of Britain's new style in Brussels will be tested by the second half of the treaty negotiation. Mr Major's honeymoon in Europe is ending.



Square deal city: Potsdamer Platz, target of the multinationals which want to move into the new capital of Germany. Land prices in Berlin have doubled after last week's decision to move the government there and property in the open space once

occupied by the Wall is at a premium (Ian Murray writes from Bonn). Sony bought one of the best sites on Potsdamer Platz for "only" DM3,240 (£1,100) a square metre. Dittmar Staffelt, leader of the Social Democrats in the senate, has complained

that the land was worth three times that much. Daimler-Benz, however, bought 61,000 square metre site on Potsdamer Platz for DM1,505 a square metre, and paid DM13,000 a square metre for a small extra piece of private land.

Health spa fire kills 19

From ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN BARBOTAN-LES-THERMES

AT LEAST 19 people being treated at a health spa in southern France were killed yesterday by toxic smoke from a fire that started when workers accidentally spilled hot tar on a roof, igniting insulation material.

Flames spread from the roof over a heated pool, sending toxic fumes into the pool area, the authorities here said. The building was cleared, and the blaze was extinguished by firefighters using water from the pool.

The spa is used by people suffering from rheumatism. Its treatments include heated mud baths.

Monsieur Rigueur goes on spending spree

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

SOMEWHERE in the cellars of the French ministry of economics and finance's hideous new complex on the Quai de Bercy is a statue that everyone working there would rather forget. Commissioned at more than a million francs (about £100,000), it depicts two huge interlocked gold ingots and was originally intended to occupy a prominent spot in the central courtyard.

Alas, that was not to be in the dry observation of the latest report by the Cour des Comptes, the official watchdog for public spending. "The symbolic aspect was finally found to be displeasing." Nor is this the only cavalier waste of taxpayers' money laid at the door of Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister, whose pungent views on the need for financial restraint have earned him the unaffectionate nickname of "Monsieur Rigueur".

There is also the little matter of two speedboats purchased at a cost of £360,000 for M Bérégovoy's use and the specially built dock alongside the complex on the Seine to accommodate them. As for decorating the new ministry — the architectural style has been described as "soft stalinist" — the Cour des Comptes noted acridly that well over £4 million had been spent, with another £2 million going towards making the "ministerial enclaves" fit for M Bérégovoy.

The government accountants concluded that moving from the wonderful quarters in the Louvre to the Quai de Bercy had cost about twice as much as the ministry's experts had estimated. Not the best of advertisements for budgetary rigour, noted the newspaper *Libération*, especially when M Bérégovoy's minions are busily pruning spending plans submitted by other ministries.

The beady eye of the Cour des Comptes also fell upon one of President Mitterrand's most cherished monuments to his own glory, the massive Arche de la Défense on the western fringe of Paris. It has considerably greater architectural merit than the Quai de Bercy, and the view from the top — through the Arc de Triomphe and along the Champs Elysées to the Place de la Concorde — is certainly spectacular. But so is the amount it has cost taxpayers: the equivalent of £27 million so far, roughly double the original estimates. The failure to find tenants for office space there (the environment ministry was said to be moving there but has still not appeared) is driving the public deficit steadily higher.

Among other notably expensive white elephants outside Paris, the report touched caustically on a futuristic underwater observatory

established in a little village near Narbonne three years ago and used only once to date. For an investment of almost £4.5 million, *Le Figaro* observed with relish, it is truly a "bubble in troubled waters".

But for connoisseurs of financial irresponsibility, or worse, the turbulent city of Nice on the Côte d'Azur takes the biscuit. In a report of mastery understatement, the Cour des Comptes concludes that the long-serving former mayor, Jacques Médecin, was effectively running the municipality as a private fiefdom and had prospered mightily.

M Médecin bolted to Latin America some time ago, whence he occasionally issued aggrieved statements claiming political persecution by the Socialists. The prospect of retrieving any of the vast amounts of money that cannot now be accounted for are considered slim indeed.

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Are women sitting comfortably?

Why a change to working hours could be to the detriment of some MPs

The conventional wisdom is that the sitting times of the House of Commons are not only ludicrous but one more obstacle to women entering Parliament. Is this really so?

On the face of it, the hours of the House of Commons (usually 2.30pm until just after 10pm), which are now to be considered by a select committee, are absurd. Proposals for reform have long suggested that the House should sit in the morning and rise in the early evening. Campaigners who want to make the House more congenial for women are joining the battle for a more normal working day. But it is those very out-of-kilter hours which are extraordinarily favourable to anyone with a family.

All MPs have a relaxed, eight-hour working day. Attendance is not compulsory, and a woman can come and go as she pleases, provided she propitiates the Chief Whip. Her biggest blessing is what has been most maligned — the absence of morning sittings. In which other profession do the hours allow a woman to take the children to school and even have lunch with them, to be there when they are sick, or when the child-minder does not turn up? An MP can be back home for the children's bedtime — there is usually no need to return to Westminster before 10pm. When our children were little my husband, Bill Rodgers, who was then in the House, sometimes rushed home for a rare birthday tea.

As for those famous evening and all-night sittings — three-line whips, when voting is compulsory, seldom occur more than once or twice a week, and usually at 10pm. On leaving the House, Kenneth Clarke may go to Ronnie Scott's, other MPs can

go right home. There is more bounty still: the House sits for only 30 to 35 weeks a year, and school holidays usually coincide with recesses. An absence for childbirth can be fitted in and need hardly be noticed. Only when a woman MP aims to get to the ministerial top is some flexibility lost. In the short run, a successful parliamentary career need not depend only on spending time and asking questions in the House. Radio and television appearances help, as does writing articles, which can be done at home with the bonus of an allowance for her secretary and

The biggest blessing has been most maligned — the absence of morning sittings

Income Tax relief for using her home as her office. The most punishing hours of work are suffered not in the House itself, but during an election, when most candidates never even set foot in the precinct at Westminster. A conventional working day might suit Glenda Jackson, who could appear on the floor of the House during the day, and on the West End stage in the evening, but reformers wanting to make parliamentary life easier for most women might consider lobbying for fixed Parliaments. Then childcare arrangements could be made to avoid being faced with an election just as nanny or granny goes on holiday.

That the House is a gruelling place for the backbencher on account of its hours is a myth that MPs find convenient. How better to impress voters and, just occasionally, to get out of a constituency engagement? This myth should be dispelled before it frightens off any likely women candidates. Well-intentioned reform could jeopardise the chances of increasing the number of women MPs.

SILVIA RODGERS
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Terry Venables, who won the battle for Tottenham Hotspur, talks to Kate Muir about a funny old game

El Tel, running with the ball

SIMON TOWNLEY

When they eventually erect the statue to Sir Terence Venables outside White Hart Lane, the emblems of his trade will be immortalised with him in marble — the car phone at his ear, and the football held like the world in the palm of his hand.

There is no doubt that Terry Venables's reputation can only continue to grow, for he is football's renaissance man, the Leonardo da Vinci of the league. When the physical challenges on the field were not enough, he branched out to become a manager, an inventor, a novelist, a scriptwriter, an entrepreneur and, since last week, the managing director and part-owner of Tottenham Hotspur football club. He also — and this clinches the renaissance theory — once sang on stage with the Joe Loss Orchestra.

El Tel, as the tabloids call him, is not averse to the limelight. In some ways he enjoyed the drama of the last-ditch battle of the titans against the publisher Robert Maxwell for control of Spurs. Mr Venables persuaded Alan Sugar, the Amstrad millionaire, to put up half his £7.4 million bid, and the two self-made men from the East End of London beat the self-made man from Czechoslovakia 1-0.

"Some time in your life you've got to risk everything for what you believe in," says Mr Venables, who is hazardous more than £3 million of his own and commercially borrowed money. "I think everyone gets a big opportunity sometime in his life, and you could just pass it by. I always thought I took big risks before, until this one came along, and I went for it. It's in my capacity to do it."

Yes, yes, but what about the most important question? What news of England's favourite son, Gazza? Will El Tel save him from the grasping Italians at Lazio? Probably not, is the impression given by the shrug of the Venables navy suit. He is certainly not going to say, although a decision is expected later today. Diplomatically, we move on to the problems Paul Gascoigne might have alone abroad for the first time, far from his mates and the snooker table. "The single once," opines Mr Venables, "what with them getting the sort of money we're talking about, can afford to compensate their friends coming over on visits. Maybe even get some of their family to come out."

Sounds as though Gazza, whose sale would bring in more than £4 million to the club, is not long for these shores. "See, the thing about football is you say something, and



Spurred on: Terry Venables, foreground, with Alan Sugar, right, after acquiring the club — "sometimes you've got to risk everything"

it's true now, and then I might get a phone call this afternoon which might change everything. You can never tell."

That unpredictability makes pinning Mr Venables down for an interview somewhat tricky. Not that he is unwilling — it is just that his days and nights are seamless business meetings and deals.

Fortunately, he speaks at twice the speed of normal human beings, and four times the speed of normal football managers, so the conversation takes half the usual time.

Like any gentleman, Mr Venables operates from his club — not Spurs but Scribes West in Kensington, which he bought into three months ago with his business partner, Paul Riviere. Here, the Venables courtiers can be influenced, and an audience arranged.

Scribes (opened by the Right Hon Margaret Thatcher according to the brass plaque) is filled with what might be described as the Cockney-ocracy, to judge by an over-reliance on after-shave by the men, and peroxide by the women. Gloria Estefan launched a single here; Bill Wyman and George Best drop by sometimes. It is a club for people who have made their money the hard way, without inheritance or old

school ties, and are now in the process of enjoying it. Publicly.

The words "Marbella", "Florida" and "Crystal Palace" are murmured at tables in the background as Mr Venables has a glass of champagne and continues to network. He talks to Mr Riviere, who joined him in successfully backing The Manager, the football equivalent of Monopoly invented by Mr Venables in spare moments during his spell as manager of Barcelona in the mid-Eighties. To win the board game, the player must build a team from nothing, succeed in league and cup, while staying friends with his bank manager.

Good training for Mr Venables, although his present game is a more subtle one, and the bank cannot be too happy about Spurs' estimated £18 million debt. "If you try and turn a ship around too quickly it breaks. What we're doing is stabilising it, slowing it up, and seeing where we stand. Sitting still is the hardest thing to do, like not playing a substitute when the crowd is shouting for it, because you know he won't be any better than the man on the pitch." He is still in the process of finding out the extent to which the club is involved in deals in Europe, and a possible first division super-league. Relations with Irving Scholar, the club's chairman, were

less than cordial, and Mr Venables spent a lot of time in the dark. "I wasn't involved at that level, and certain elements didn't want me to get involved."

But the support of the Spurs fans encouraged Mr Venables to continue his attempt to buy a controlling share in the club. "I got webbed in a bit. I started following my heart rather than my head." In the end, the battle lasted nearly 11 months, and the reply to the offer with Mr Sugar only came amid reports that Marseilles and two Italian clubs were bidding for Mr Venables as manager.

He is not content to leave the pitch completely for the boardroom. "I want to cover for everybody, while not getting caught between two stools," he says, complicatedly. "I want someone else to look after the Saturday to Saturday results. I want to look at the team, and the younger players, away from the fault and the glory, and do a bit of creative thinking."

Creative thinking is what Mr Venables does best. "I'm not ambitious," he says. "But nobody will believe that. One thing has just followed another, unplanned." Well, up to a point. But it takes more than luck to rise from very ordinary beginnings as the only child of

Myrtle and Fred in Dagenham, Essex, to his present status, aged 48, controlling millions. "My mother was quite strict and businesslike. She wouldn't stand any nonsense. My father was easy-going and funny."

That genetic combination put him on the fast track from England Schoolboys, aged 15, to Chelsea, Spurs and QPR, as player, and then to Crystal Palace, QPR, Barcelona and Spurs as manager. In his free time he invested in pubs and businesses, and co-wrote four novels and the television detective series *Hazell*. On the way, after the strain of moving to Spain, he separated from his wife, but is still good friends with his two grown-up daughters.

His father, who runs one of his pubs in Chingford, says his son is a workaholic. His mother, who died last year, ran a second Venables pub in Wales.

The rise and rise of Terry Venables might have been predicted from his early footballing form. As one players' guide notes: "Right-half/inside left, diverse positions revealing utility value. An incisive tackler, imaginative in distribution." He even undermined his first manager at Chelsea, the present Tommy Docherty, who told *The Independent on Sunday*: "He was a confident chappie who was too damned cheeky for my well-being."

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July 1, 1991

Galleries: Shows marking the 400th anniversary of Guercino's birth, seen by John Russell Taylor

Squinting at splendour fit for the king

The tremendous popularity enjoyed by Guercino in Britain from his own time up to the middle of the 19th century is perhaps odd. Though eagerly sought after to become court painter to Charles I, Guercino resolutely refused to come anywhere near London, the home, as he had heard, of unregenerate Protestants and bad weather. The British did not hold these Bolognese vapours against him in due course his nephew Benedetto Gennari came to take up the same position at the court of James II. Thereafter, Guercino was among the most avidly collected of 17th century Italian painters until Ruskin blasted them out of the picture in favour of pre-Raphaelites.

That came too late to prevent vast numbers of Guercinos from entering Britain, though after Ruskin a certain number departed again, mostly westward. Even so, the Royal Collection holds more than 800 drawings, most of them genuine (since Guercino was so overwhelmingly popular there were many almost contemporary *falsarii*). It has been able to lend more than a hundred to the British Museum show, *Drawings by Guercino from British Collections*, as well as lending 200 to the United States. Naturally there are not so many important paintings still available for the National Gallery show *Guercino in Britain*. But the 28 assembled give an admirably coherent view of his career, as well as providing an appetising foretaste for some of the giant show in Bologna in the autumn. Nor is this all: small as it is, the show of Guercino and Benedetto Gennari at Richard L. Feigen actually fills in a couple of gaps, with what is said to be his only still-life and a self-portrait boldly displaying the squint that gave Giovanni Francesco Barbieri the

nickname, *il Guercino* ("squint-eyed"), by which he is known.

To see so much of Guercino at once, and to confirm so graphically Britain's ability to celebrate in style the 400th anniversary of his birth, is marvellous. The first impression is that the two big shows present very different visions of Guercino's career. At the National Gallery the hang is largely chronological, enabling us to observe the seemingly inevitable development of his style from the dark-toned, Mannerist compositions of his youth to a much lighter, subtler style with more classical concern for balance and tonal gradation. At the British Museum, by contrast, we might be sampling several different artists.

To an extent this can be explained by the different requirements of the finished, usually commissioned painting and the more improvisatory drawing. Many drawings are sketches or studies for paintings in hand, and naturally look more like the works they contributed towards. Even so, they show how experimental was his approach to any problem. Especially revealing are the groups of drawings on a particular subject, such as *The Assassination of Amnon at the Feast of Absalom* where the subject is re-conceived in many different lights before a final interpretation is chosen.

The show also contains types of drawing which have virtually no counterpart in Guercino's painted works. He hardly ever painted pure landscapes. But among the drawings there are hundreds of landscapes, nearly all delicately rendered in pure ink line. The assumption is that Guercino did these for his own satisfaction.

The other sorts of drawing which seem to reflect personal compulsion are the caricature and grotesque. Here, Guercino reveals a sharp eye for oddity and a sense of the absurd which, if not exactly sunny, at least introduces humour into his often severe and savage world. The qualities of his draughtsmanship, however applied, are so extraordinary that even a collection of 800 does



One of the greatest-ever draughtsmen: *Cupid restraining Mars*, by Guercino, at the British Museum

not seem excessive. Visitors to the British Museum will encounter one of the greatest-ever wielders of pen and pencil, chalk and wash.

But Guercino was, in his own estimation, a painter above all. He was, moreover, an extremely businesslike painter. At the National Gallery it is possible to observe him being artistically frugal, turning a detailed study for a figure of St Irene in his *St Sebastian Succoured by St Irene* in the Bologna Pinacoteca into a Sibyl by the simple substitution of book and parchment for the sponge and bowl she originally held. Part of his secret for success was clearly an

acute understanding of what was saleable.

What was saleable in 17th century Catholic Italy remained amazingly saleable in 18th century Protestant England. It is odd to imagine these emotional Counter-Reformation canvases sitting easily in a typical British aristocratic collection — especially considering that these were the works most assiduously collected. Perhaps the turbulent compositions of such paintings as *The Taking of Christ* and *Elijah Fed by Ravens* appealed to the *Wuthering Heights* side of the British character. The fact remains that, long before

the advocacy of Sir Denis Mahon, Guercino was close to British hearts. For his anniversary Britain is doing him proud.

Guercino in Britain, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321) Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun 2-6pm, until July 31. *Drawings by Guercino from British Collections*, British Museum, Gt Russell Street, WC1 (071-323 8525) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, until August 18. *Guercino and Benedetto Gennari*, Richard L. Feigen, 6 Ryder Street, SW1 (071-390 0020) Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, until July 26.

REVIEWS

Theatre, Television and Music
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Fierce and wonderful

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RECORDS: ROCK

Melancholia sounds modern

The Psychedelic Furs:
World Outside (eastwest 9031-74669-2)
Bonnie Raitt: *Luck of the Draw* (Capitol EST 2145)
Definition Of Sound: *Love and Life: A Journey with the Chameleons* (Circa CIRCA 14)

HAVING spent a decade steadily building up to a subsistence level of rock 'n' roll stardom, the Psychedelic Furs took their eyes off the ball in the late Eighties. By 1989, their trademark mood of brooding melancholia had reached stifling proportions on *Book of Days*, a courageous album but the biggest flop of their career.

World Outside offers more of the same grainy musical textures and droning, linear arrangements, but the album is leavened by a significantly keener sense of melody and somehow pulled into focus by the context of the times. Richard Butler's decadent rasp has a familiar air of ancient mystery about it, but in other respects it is remarkable how utterly contemporary the group still sounds. Butler softly croaks his world-weary epistles while multi-layered guitar riffs mesh together in clumpy wedges of sound on the dreamy "Valentine" and the sinister "Don't Be a Girl". "In My Head" boasts especially pretty guitar curlicues, and a descending sequence redolent of the Furs' 1984 hit "Heaven".

● The Robert Gray Band featuring The Memphis Horns headlines the Capital Radio Coca-Cola Blues Festival, Crystal Palace Bowl, London SE19 on July 6. Also on the bill are John Lee Hooker, Albert Collins, John Hammond, Irma Thomas and others.

● Tributes to mark the tenth anniversary of Bob Marley's death rumble on. Musicians including the surviving members of The Wailers will gather in London on July 21 at West London Stadium, London W12 (081-963 1530) for a "One Love" festival in Marley's honour. Gregory Isaacs, Freddie McGregor, Culture and Frankie Paul are promised.

● Back with a revamped lineup, The Blue Aeroplanes are at Underworld, London NW1 (071-267 3628) on July 11 and 12. Their last album, *Swagger*, was the 1990 rock album of the year in *The Times*.

● The "Cities in the Park" festival, in Heaton Park, Manchester (061 969 4959), will take place on August 3 and 4. The Wonder Stuff, The Beautiful South and The Soup Dragons feature on August 3. Electronic, Happy Mondays, De La Soul and A Certain Ratio head the bill on August 4.

The staggering success of Bonnie Raitt's last album, *Nick of Time* (three million sold in America alone), came as a surprise to artist and industry alike. A singer and slide guitarist in her early forties, with a distinguished but not conspicuously successful career behind her, suddenly became a hot property.

Luck of the Draw is a self-conscious attempt to cater for an audience which, ironically, she only located in the first place by paying no heed to such market-driven imperatives. Co-produced with Don Was, and boasting contribu-

tions from session luminaries such as Paul Brady, Bruce Hornsby, Jeff Porcaro and the Tower Of Power horns, *Luck of the Draw* is a high-class, moderately rosy endeavour that founders on several sticky ballads. Her natural talent for bluesy shouts such as "Papa Come Quick" or John Hiatt's barnstorming "No Business" is undermined by dull material such as "I Can't Make You Love Me" and "Slow Ride". Richard Thompson plays guitar on several tracks brilliantly, of course.

Touted as an Anglo equivalent of De La Soul, London-

based rappers Definition Of Sound are the current great hope of British dance music. Their debut album *Love and Life: A Journey with the Chameleons* betrays a pleasingly catholic approach, with influences (and sample sources) ranging from Van Morrison to Big Daddy Kane. Clever, varied and frequently cute, as demonstrated by their recent hit "Wear Your Love Like Heaven", the album bows along with an easy grace, but lacks De La Soul's whimsical charm.

DAVID SINCLAIR

BRIEFING

Wrong notes

SCOTTISH Opera, already grappling with an accumulated deficit of £600,000, faces further uncertainty as a result of Richard Mantle's resignation as managing director at the end of May. First, management and staff registered a vote of no-confidence in the chairman of the board, Sir Gerald Elliot, and his deputy Sandy Orr. Then the Secretary of State for Scotland was approached to see if he could duplicate the magic of his Welsh counterpart, who came up with Welsh Office funds to bail out the financially-strapped Welsh National Opera. "Discussions are still continuing with the Secretary of State for Scotland," says Richard Jarman, interim managing director of Scottish Opera. "We are clearly pressing for similar treatment to that which Welsh National Opera got." However, it is highly unlikely that the Scottish Arts Council will manage any increase of its £3.86 million annual subsidy to its biggest client.

More blood

AFTER scaring the world to death as Dr Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs*, Anthony Hopkins is not resting on his laurels. When he finishes his current project, the Ivory-Merchant screen version of E.M. Forster's novel *Howards End*, Hopkins tackles *Dracula: The Untold Story*, which begins shooting in August under the direction of Francis Coppola. Winona Ryder, originally sche-



Hopkins: *Dracula* next

duled to play Al Pacino's daughter in Coppola's *The Godfather III*, is being pencilled in as the damsel in distress.

Fairground winner

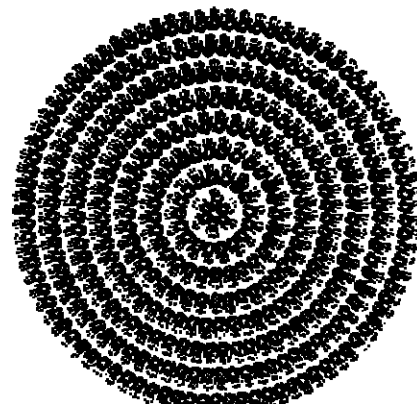
LYNDON Morgans will today be presented with the 1991 Verity Barge Award for his play, *Water Music*. The award, which carries a cash prize of £1,000, was established as a permanent memorial to the work of Verity Barge, co-founder and artistic director of the Soho Theatre Company until her death ten years ago. *Water Music*, which is set in a seedy seaside fairground in the Sixties, will be published by Methuen and will be included in the Soho Theatre's future production programme.

Last chance...

IT MAY not be *Antony and Cleopatra*, but Dryden's *All for Love* is still a strong neo-classical version of the same melancholy story, well worth the attention of as fine an actress as Diana

Rigg. Only an absurd red negligée undermines the quiet power of her vulnerable, grieving queen. James Laurensen is her Antony, while Angela Down plays Octavia. The run ends at the Almeida (071-359 4404) tomorrow.

RICHARD LONG



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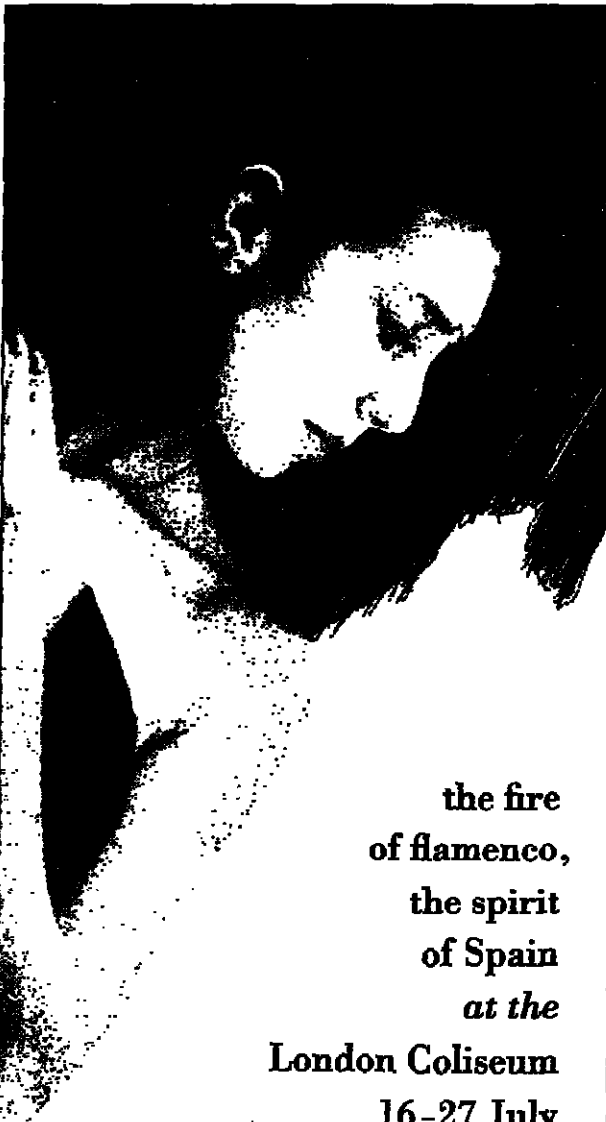


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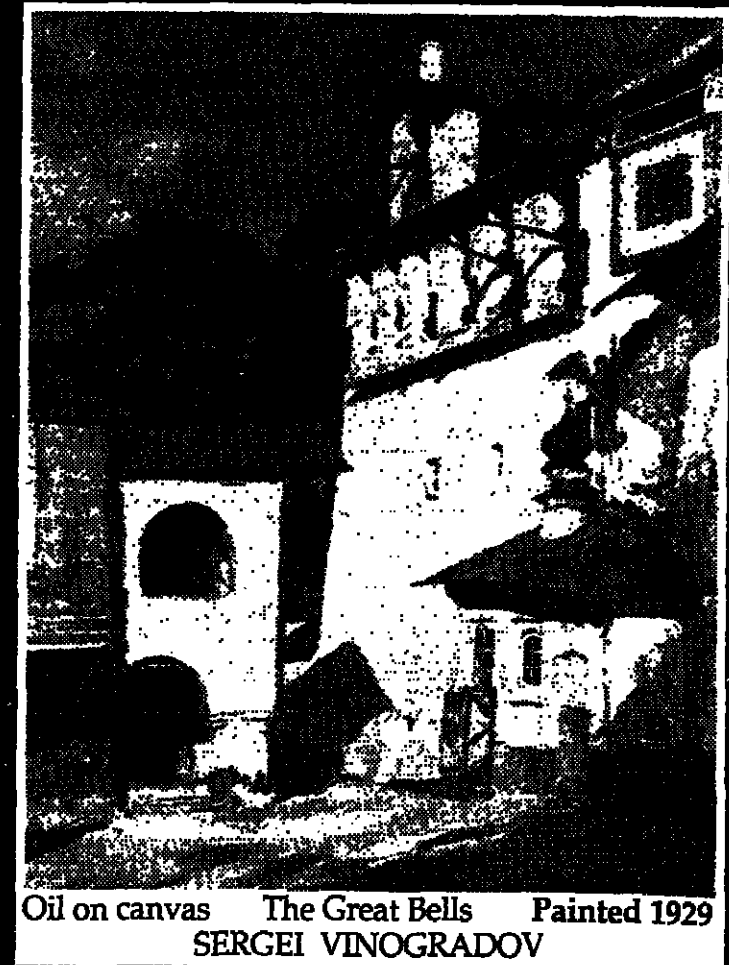
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Philip Howard

The power or poison of federalism is in the ear of the beholder

Not all arguments are merely about words (as if words were mere or unimportant). Some are about high principles as well. And this is partly true of the argument about a federal European Community that divides Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher, the Conservative Party, and other more important people. But it is not just about high principle. Pride, and pique, and petty-minded xenophobia come into it as well. And so do mere words. As Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said: "The use of the word federal is a fairly basic difficulty, even though it means something different in English and in French." No words translate exactly from one language into another, because every word in every language carries its baggage of history and connotation on its back.

This is certainly true of federal, which is a political word loaded down with value judgments, depending on where you are standing. If you are standing in the Federal Republic of Germany, which has now grown to the Deutsches Reich, or in Switzerland, which uses the word confederation in its official name in all its federal languages, you think of federation as one of the best things in a shifting world. For you federal is a strongly positive and comforting adjective.

If you are standing in the United States or Canada, which are both federations, federal is a pro-word, a word in a white hat with celebratory streamers, affected by different histories. In 1781 the 13 original American colonies adopted the Articles of Confederation, which bound them together in a league (another in this nest of federate words) until 1789, when the ratified constitution established a stronger federal government. At the Jefferson birthday celebration on April 13, 1830, President Andrew Jackson proposed the famous toast: "Our Federal Union, it must be preserved." A generation later a terrible war was fought to preserve this federal government. It is linguistically interesting that the southern states tinkered with the name, and in 1861 formed a confederacy, which was thought to be a rather lesser association, giving more rights to individual states, than a federal constitution.

There is neither magic nor poison in the roots of the federal word. Its origins are positive. It comes from the Latin *fides* faith and *foedus* to have trust in someone. From this came *foedus* a treaty, to be distinguished from the adjective *foedus*, which means foul, loathsome, ghastly, unclean. Perhaps Mrs Thatcher and other Eurosceptics and Eurosceptics are showing an unexpected interest in Latin puns by mistaking *foedus* disgusting for *foedus* a treaty.

By the accidents of history, England went in for conquests and being conquered rather than federation, and chose as its word union, as in the United Kingdom. Looking at it linguistically, which means looking at it in part historically, in a union the separate states tend to surrender more individual sovereignty than they do in a federation, and much more than they do in a confederation, coalition, or alliance.

Federation and federal sound a bit foreign. That is why Eurosceptics and other jingoists can use them as emotive words to stir up loathing and contempt. But there is nothing inherently wicked in the word or the idea of federation. All that it means is that one trusts and works with like-minded allies. This is a sensible way to go about public and private life. It is also sensible that all parties to a federation agree on the small print about the amount of sovereignty they are surrendering to the greater good.

Potter and Randle exemplify the Sixties' naïve individualism and fashionable ignorance, Janet Daley says

Something in the air



Children of the revolution: Patrick Potter (left) and Michael Randle

What exactly was it that Patrick Potter and Michael Randle thought they were about, all those years ago? To understand what they felt then (and, apparently, still feel, as they are remarkably unrepentant), it is necessary to transport ourselves back to that era of ecstatic innocence in which they committed their crime. If their trial is not to have been an utterly futile exercise, we can at least let it illuminate the dangerous borderland where idealism meets arrogance.

Let us leave aside the question of whether it was sensible to try a pair of glib amateurs for an adventure of 25 years ago. Once the case had come to court, it became a duel between the rule of law and the cult of private conscience in which Randle and Potter were immersed, along with many others, in the Sixties. An impressionable jury was invited to see the law as an officious obstacle to personal moral development. The fact that the prosecuting counsel made no closing address to counter the effect of the defendants' rhetoric meant that the argument was lost by default.

And so a dozen people, most of them too young to remember either George Blake or the conventional wisdom of a generation ago which produced Potter and Randle's kind of hubris, were not reminded that in a democratic society (such as the one which Blake took such great risks to undermine), respect for the law is a guarantee of freedom. Instead, they were urged to ignore "legal mumbo jumbo", to flout the meaning of the words "guilty" and "innocent", and to vindicate the deliverance of a man responsible for the deaths of dozens of his own countrymen.

They might have demonstrated their doubts about bringing such a belated prosecution by finding the men guilty but requesting leniency, in effect inviting the judge to give a suspended sentence. But they took the much more seductive path offered by the romantic hyperbole of the defendants. They would "keep the lamp of freedom burning

and shining" by pitting their "humanity" against the "legal technicalities".

But it was no technicality on which they were advised they must convict. To refuse to find the two men guilty was to fly in the face of reason. They had admitted their guilt. The only question which remained was whether their act was justified by

moral considerations which transcended the law. For Potter and Randle, those transfiguring principles were "compassion" and "fairness". Blake had been given a cruel and inhuman punishment which was motivated by the "paranoia about communism" which was rife in the Fifties. The ending of the cold war makes all of the espionage industry seem, in

retrospect, to be farcical, and yet here were they being tried as a footnote to it.

When feeling compassion for Blake's plight, did these two ask themselves what had happened to all those British agents Blake had handed over to the Soviets? Did they imagine that the KGB had called them in for counselling? To this kind of question, they reply with effusions of moral relativism: both sides of the cold war espionage racket were "obscene". As Potter said in court, "We all have blood on our hands." Oh dear, yes, but some of us have considerably more of it than others.

The ending of the cold war certainly has made the spy business somewhat redundant (at least for the moment) but hasn't it also told us something about the extent of the repression to which the eastern European and Soviet populations had been subjected? Can Potter and Randle still talk glibly about anti-communist

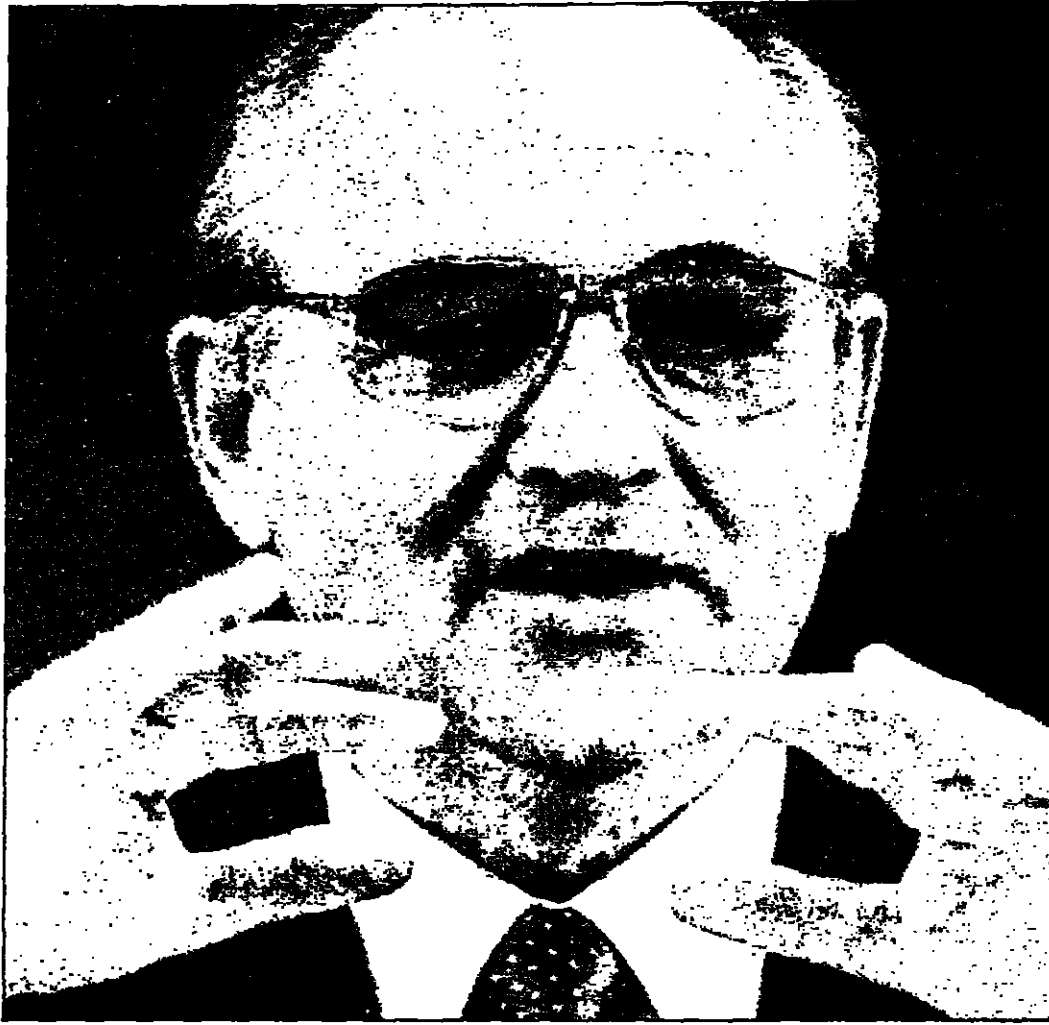
"paranoia", now that we know what we do about the Stalinist regimes of the Fifties? The East Germany to which Randle delivered Blake is totally discredited, its memory a salutary tale of how long a despotic regime can survive if it is sufficiently despotic. But what a breathtaking exploit it must have been to smuggle him there in the back of the van, convinced that you were the Lone Ranger fighting for truth and justice.

In 1966, it was a commonplace among educated liberals to say that there was little difference between western economic imperialism and the more straightforward military kind deployed by the Soviet Union, and it followed that there was precious little difference between the KGB and the CIA.

Now the wall is down and the gaps in our understanding are filled. There may be little need for spying anymore but can't we see even more clearly why there was a need for it then? Which goes to show precisely how dangerous it is to assume that your own moral instincts justify subverting the law: you just might be acting out of fashionable ignorance.

Is Gorbachev still for turning?

Mary Dejevsky on how the Soviet president outwitted his enemies and kept true to his vision of change



A hard line on hardliners: Mikhail Gorbachev may have made his last U-turn, and found independence

Not for the first time, confused Russians are asking the real Mikhail Gorbachev to stand up. Over the long winter, the army ventured to the walls of the Kremlin, and there were times when hardliners seemed on the threshold of power with a grim-faced Mr Gorbachev at their head. But in the spring, the democrats came out of hibernation to find another Mr Gorbachev, half-smiling, receiving them.

He quietly attended a concert in memory of Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist, and admitted that he had been secretly talking to the West about economic assistance. Now, in the heat of the early Moscow summer, he has publicly lambasted the conservatives, and re-aligned himself with his former rival, Boris Yeltsin.

How long, people are asking, will he maintain the present course? Is this latest U-turn for real? Even to pose such a question does Mr Gorbachev an injustice. Those who despair of ever seeing their president's democratic face again and who now hail his "conversion" were concentrating on his words, not his deeds. All the evidence suggests that through the winter Mr Gorbachev played — perhaps was forced to play — an elaborate game. Sometimes he came perilously close to succumbing to the ways of his opponents; sometimes he nearly lost power. Some close and influential friends deserted him. But he kept faith with his vision of change.

This is not a popular view, especially in Moscow's democratic circles. The objections come thick and fast. What of the extra clout given to the police and KGB, what of the president's extra powers, what of the persecution of Eduard Shevardnadze from the foreign ministry, the hounding of Boris Yeltsin and the

harm inflicted on glasnost? What, above all, about the killings in the Baltic? With the single exception of the Baltic tragedies there was much huffing and puffing, much outward show, but very little real substance.

The reorganisation of the interior ministry in November ousted a reputed liberal (Vadim Bakatin) and brought in two reputed hardliners (Boris Pugo and Boris Gromov). Mr Bakatin is now in the president's new security council, and stood unsuccessfully for the Russian presidency.

The personnel changes achieved much publicity, and a phenomenon called "joint police and army patrols" in major cities, which were afterwards ruled unconstitutional and were always largely invisible.

Mr Gorbachev's much publicised loss of senior reformist advisers never happened. True, he was denounced by the hot-tempered Academician Stanislav Shatalin, co-author of the 500-day programme, and Nikolai Petrakov, another economic adviser, ventured sharp public criticism. But Mr Petrakov, like the glasnost guru Aleksandr Yakovlev, did not leave office. Mr Gorbachev brought other, more conventional, types to the fore, but he protected his own.

The supposed purge of central television took a limited and very temporary toll. The pioneering *Vzglyad* programme, which became a symbol of the purge, is back on air. The independent Interfax news agency, evicted by Moscow radio, moved smoothly into new offices (as smoothly as anyone in Moscow moves into new offices) and the ousted television presenters have new jobs. Most now work for the Russian Federation's own television channel, which opened in April and offers the first real alternative news in the history of Soviet television. Russian tele-

vision is flourishing. Mr Gorbachev's public threat to suspend press freedom never took effect.

Even when he issued it before a shocked parliament, the threat seemed somehow rehearsed, as though he was speaking from an agreed script. Subsequently, the proposal was lost in the labyrinth of parliamentary committees. It frightened a few editors for a week or so, but all the independent newspapers continued to publish without a break. They bought paper, denounced Mr Gorbachev, and remained on sale. Economically, they are stronger than the erstwhile of-

ficial press, which is suddenly having to survive in a market for which it is not equipped.

The killings in Lithuania and Latvia, and Mr Gorbachev's failure either to apologise for them or justify them, are the single piece of tangible evidence for the Soviet leader's supposed "turn to the right". They remain on his conscience and they cannot be undone. It is not sufficient for Mr Gorbachev or his officials to say that the deaths were a mistake. Troops and tanks are not called out by mistake. If it was a mistake then a section of the army was out of his control. It is not sufficient to say that they

were the product of particular circumstances, as the chairman of parliament, Anatoly Lukyanov, has done. And it is plainly defamatory to say, as the chief procurator did in his interim report, that the victims had only themselves to blame.

And yet, the democratically elected governments in the Baltic are still in place, however much the Soviet leader evidently dislikes them. They, and Western opinion, together proved strong enough to prevent the hardliners' coup that was evidently in preparation.

Had they not been so strong, Mr Gorbachev might have fol-

lowed the crowd and given the coup his blessing. The resentment of the hardliners over his "broken promise" to support them suggests that Mr Shevardnadze's talk of dictatorship in his resignation speech was a recognition of that danger.

Those who still want to keep the Baltics in check are not strong enough to do more than skirmish over such plainly illegal and anti-constitutional acts (in Soviet terms) as the establishment of republic customs posts. And the question of the troops in the Vilnius television tower is still unresolved.

Of course, none of this means that Mr Gorbachev's vision of the future Soviet Union is feasible, desirable, or worthy of massive Western support. There is a serious question about whether the Soviet Union should be kept together if its constituent parts want to function by themselves. There is an equally serious question about Mr Gorbachev's insistence on its "socialist" orientation, given the Russian voters' hearty rejection of the communists in the presidential election. And a question mark hangs over his commitment to such necessary reforms as privatisation.

But the Soviet leader is neither a tyrant nor a dictator, and in the history of post-revolutionary Russia this is saying much. The most damaging charges against him relate to weakness and indecision. Even these, however, may not be justified.

Over the winter, Mr Gorbachev used the additional powers he had wrested from parliament only to issue decrees which were by-and-large ignored. He consistently rejected appeals for a state of emergency or martial law. With hindsight, it is possible to argue that Mr Gorbachev's main purpose in taking those additional powers was not to use them himself, but to ensure that no one else could use them. If that is true, his denunciation of the conservatives last week was not his latest U-turn, but a declaration of independence.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

As I write, it is Thursday, and what I want to know is, does the Provost of Leicester feel the same way as I do this morning? Or the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, or Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday, or Lady Rachel Pepsys, Lady in Waiting to the late Princess Marina, or the Chief Constable of Central Scotland? Do they all feel BAD?

Possibly, since our eclectic titling notwithstanding, today we all share one thing. We share today. It is, as *Times* readers may have spotted, our birthday. We are, conjointly, 377, and if some of us are feeling even older, that is almost certainly the result of BAD.

BAD, as those same readers of yesterday's *Times* will also have twigged, is Birthday Affective Disorder. They will have twigged it from reading Victoria McKee's dispiriting article "Feeling Under the Weather?", which, although it was ostensibly only about SAD and MAD, was actually about BAD, too, though Victoria did not know this at the time and, if she had, she might not have written it at all, because reading about SAD and MAD rapidly brings on BAD.

To re-cap, SAD is Seasonal Affective Disorder, which means feeling lousy during the summer, and MAD is Major Affective Disorder, which means feeling even lousier. Neither has been called this for long, mind, although people may well have been suffering from them for aeons, but this is the Age of Nomenclature, and no one can feel lousier any more without that lousiness

immediately being popped into a jar and acronymised.

How, then, do you get BAD? You get BAD from other people being nice to you, an irony it shares with a number of even less savoury diseases. For, if my co-natalities are anything like me, they did not spring up this morning and immediately begin provoking Leicester or dusting Central Scotland for fingerprints, the way they have to on other mornings; they stayed snug in bed and were brought kippers, toast, cards, presents, and newspapers.

For a time, they felt terrific. Then the first four boons were cleared away, their pillows were plumped for them, and they were settled back for that unique annual luxury, a morning with the papers.

It is a transitional moment. Up until then, all has been good, but now the good is about to exit, pursued by a bear. The bear is BAD. Because there can be no worse time than a birthday for having nothing to do but trawl a pile of newspaper, no matter how mollified by kippers, gifts, buoyant rhymes, tender loving care and the constant reassurance that the best is yet to come, the birthday spirit cannot but be hypersensitised by the date to an awareness of its inescapable downside, and when that happens, newspapers have an uncanny knack of reminding you that Time's winged chariot has just hurried a year nearer.

Especially because you have time to light on those tiny down-columen stories which the exigencies of unbirthdays preclude

you from noticing. I cannot remember a birthday on which there was not one such lurking to bring on an acute attack of BAD, and today's was no exception. Already suffering, thanks to the season of my birth, from SAD and MAD, I then got BAD.

Now, while I cannot guess what might have spooked the others into gloominess at what their reducing future might deprive them of — the chief constable might have spotted the record crime figures and wondered gloomily if he would ever live to see them fall, Lady Rachel might have looked up from the sports pages to speculate moodily as to whether she would ever see Wimbledon decorum return to how it was when she accompanied its gracious patronne thither — I know what nailed me to the bed.

IRAS F1022144-4724 had been discovered. It is the brightest object in the universe. It is so bright that nobody knows what it is. Normally, on an unbirthday, I would just shrug this off as one more thing I would never be smart enough to begin to understand, and forget it. Not today: today I note that it is 16,000,000 light years away, so we cannot say we don't know what it is, all we can say is that we don't know what it was, because it might not be any more.

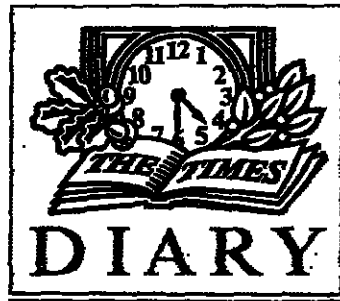
Today, what is borne in upon me is that I shall not be around to find out whether it is. For, if it is still there in 16,000,000 light years' time, people will know that it was around today; but I shall not, and, I tell you, that's a BAD feeling.

An ism of their own

What's in an "ism"? John Major did not unveil a comprehensive philosophy of "Majorism" yesterday. Indeed, at a time when other politicians seem to feel an overwhelming urge to invent them, Major refreshingly claimed in his address to the Conservative women's conference in London that he did not believe in "isms".

Major was always an unlikely candidate for such neologism (there it is again), as the first recorded reference to Majorism recognised. In December 1988, when he was not even Chancellor but chief secretary to the Treasury, *The Times* wrote: "Majorism, it seems, like socialism, is the language of priorities. Consistency of policy, steadiness of aim, figure largely." Hardly the stuff of profound philosophy, and his campaign for the Tory leadership did little to change that perception. "Majorism stands for almost no

change at all," the paper's economics editor wrote two days before Major became prime minister. But perhaps the "ism" is fitting. If Majorism means nothing more



than a return to the old consensus. After all, the first two politicians to have their own "ism" were the very epitome of non-ideology — R.A. Butler and Hugh Gaitskell, who gave birth to the Tweedledum and Tweedledee philosophy of "Butskellism".

Churchill gave us "Churchillism" but never "Churchillism". The other seven post-war prime ministers were all equally unsuitable candidates for their own "isms", leaving Mrs Thatcher alone as the creator of her own distinctive prime ministerial philosophy. And who first coined the word Thatcherism? None other than *Marxism Today* (a magazine now desperately seeking a name change to shed its own outdated "ism") in a January 1979 article by Professor Stuart Hall.

Bars for Blake

He return to the news of the spy George Blake has revived happy memories for Sir Roger Falk. Now in his eighties, Sir Roger was Blake's prison visitor at Wormwood Scrubs. "I visited him 50 times. He was sprung a few days after my last visit," says Sir Roger, who was chairman of the prison visitors' board at the time and was knighted three years after Blake's escape.

The two got on well and shortly after the escape Sir Roger took Blake's records out of the prison visitors' record book. "Written across the top, in typically British understatement it said, 'George Blake escape'. It is a scruffy little document but one that I cherish."

The friendship was based on discussing metaphysical poetry and philosophy — "anything but treason," says Sir Roger. He smuggled a bar of Bourville plain chocolate to the spy on every visit. Shortly after Michael Randle and Patrick Potter called on Blake in Moscow, Sir Roger received a letter from Blake. "I hope my escape did not lead to any difficulties for you," the spy wrote. "In view of all the circumstances I can honestly say I have been extraordinarily lucky." He's not the only one.

Lost and found

Save Britain's Heritage has launched "the crumbling heritage hunt", a search to uncover every dilapidated historic building in the country. "We want people to keep a camera with them wherever they go and send us photographs of decaying historic buildings in urgent need of repair," says Marianne Watson-Smyth of Save. The senders of the 12 best — or worst — examples will receive a bottle of champagne. "There will also be a prize for the person with the longest list of entries and another for the most unusual," says Save. Then, in a

kind of massive heritage Exchange and Mart, the group plans to turn itself into a kind of heritage adoption agency by matching its list of neglected buildings against its register of potential owners looking for historic buildings to restore.

When is an opening not an opening? When it is at the new Sainsbury wing of the National Gallery. Yesterday saw a private viewing for friends of the Sainsbury brothers, John, Timothy and Simon, the latest in a long line of sneak previews. Before that there had been three viewings for the specialist press. Diarists and general reporters will get a look on Monday week, the day before the Queen officially opens the wing. Doors will finally be open to the public on July 9 — that is, of course, if there is anyone left who has not seen it by then.

Green field sight

Sometimes you have to take friends where you find them. The British Green Party has rushed to become the first party to recognise the new independent government of Slovenia. Britain's greens are calling for all countries to recognise the government, which has a Green as deputy prime minister.

An independent Slovenia is in line with the green belief that Europe should develop into a federation of autonomous regions. It is a belief shared by Leo Sesserko, the Slovenian deputy prime minister.

The party denies that promoting "high anti-army" could lead to bloodshed, saying that responsibility for any fighting would lie with those governments that oppose it. The party, which acts in accordance with European green policy, goes on to make the point that 88 per cent of Slovenians polled want the country to enjoy independence.



FLIRTING WITH PLATTITUDES

Summer is supposedly here and politicians are getting jumpy. As usual, the Conservative party is criticising its leaders for "not getting the message across". As usual, Labour is murmuring that its leaders are good at nothing else. The government is feeling customary pre-election campaign panic and the prime minister is feeling the customary post-honeymoon blues. It is a wonder the country is governed at all.

John Major yesterday took his troubles to the Conservative women's conference in what was initially billed as a seminal policy speech of Majorism. Somewhere along the way, he clearly abandoned such ambition. He has a big weekend ahead in Luxembourg. He is having trouble putting flesh on the bones of his pet project, the Citizen's Charter. He decided to play safe with a polished turn of cliché. All -isms are now to be announced in favour of the greatest non-ism of politics, Conservatism. The speech could have been uttered by Edward Heath or Margaret Thatcher.

With an election now postponed until next year, the coming six months are going to be a test of nerves. Mr Major's entourage still make heavy weather of his various difficulties. They fuss round him, overloading his in-tray and flicking metaphorical dust off his collar. Like him, they are still learning on the job. But the hardest lesson in politics is a sense of proportion in adversity. The only tutor is experience.

The Tories' most dangerous temptation just now is to pin their electoral future on the economy. Ministers are desperate for relief from recession and from the Treasury's imperviousness to raw politics. They gather nervously round Norman Lamont's market screens, turn away and protest with a shrug that, whatever happens, they can "pin it all on Norman". If the next election is won, the policy is vindicated. If not, the Treasury will carry the can.

That may comfort some ministers, but such abnegation is no more fair on Mr Lamont than was pinning the poll tax on Nicholas Ridley. Nor will it help Mr Major, who is reputed to be baffled at the

economy's refusal to perform to his 1990 predictions. He has no desire to be the shortest serving prime minister this century, after Bonar Law and Lord Home. And while more than half the election outcome may rest with the economy, the remainder is still worth fighting over.

Mr Major indicated yesterday that he has no intention of taking any electoral risks beyond that implied by letting Mr Lamont be so cautious. His programme is simply one of consolidating the more popular of Mrs Thatcher's reforms, such as housing and education, and limiting possible damage from others, such as the NHS reforms and privatisation of utilities, whose benefits have yet to seep into public consciousness. Yesterday he did not even mention the health service.

There is no shortage of work to do. The council tax and other reforms to local government have yet to be implemented. Hospital reform could yet devastate the doorstep canvasser. The debt footwork of Douglas Hurd in the Commons on Wednesday may not be enough to prevent unpleasant scenes over Europe, not least from Mrs Thatcher, come the December summit. Nothing is more lethal to Tory equanimity than "an issue more important than party politics". There could even be the horror of horrors, a rise in interest rates next winter to keep within the exchange-rate mechanism, before the economy and the party have had confidence boosted by further cuts.

All this is the heat of the kitchen, and Mr Major has less than a year to learn from bearing it. He is entitled to ask his party for time and tolerance for his pragmatism as he prepares it for the next election. Mrs Thatcher at six months was looking decidedly unsteady as she wrestled with Labour's public spending legacy. But Britain has been accustomed to strong ideological leadership. The country may have welcomed a relief from this in the arrival of Mr Major. But sooner or later a declaration of more than platitudinous doctrine would be helpful, not least to Mr Major.

HIDDEN TRAPS IN EMU

The British delegation might be in buoyant mood at this morning's Luxembourg summit. There will be no ambush to force it into premature decisions on federalism and monetary union. In fact, Jacques Delors' offer to let a future British parliament take the decision on whether or not to join the final stage of monetary union may persuade John Major that his objections to an "imposed" currency have been met once and for all.

Yet when Mr Major's attention moves beyond the rhetoric of summit communiques to the articles of economic substance in Luxembourg's draft treaty on European union, he will realise that his problems over European union and economic federalism have only just begun. The gap between Britain's principles and the proposals now being presented by the Luxembourg presidency as "the prevailing drift" of the negotiations on EMU remains almost unbridgeable wide.

The Luxembourg draft attempts to create not only a monetary, but also a tax and public-spending union, imposing on all member countries an irreversible treaty commitment to abide by fiscal targets set not by their national parliaments but by the European Council of Ministers. In setting its fiscal rules the Council would vote by weighted majority, allowing any one nation's government to be over-ruled by the others, and the decisions would ultimately be backed by "appropriate penalties".

To make matters worse, the Luxembourg draft proposes putting these rules into effect from January 1994, at least four years before the ultimate decision on full-scale monetary union. If Britain signed a treaty committing itself to such a binding fiscal arrangement, the claim that Britain would preserve its parliamentary sovereignty until the final stage of EMU through the Delors compromise would be exposed as a sham.

These are precise points of disagreement over timing and substance which really

cannot be brushed aside as trivial items only for "anti-European pedants". For externally-imposed fiscal rules would be a grave infringement of national sovereignty than a purely monetary union. A parliament's ability to tax and spend as it chooses is the very bedrock of all democratic political power. Yet the pressures on Mr Major to give way will be extreme. He must not.

Germany is determined to impose legally binding fiscal rules as a condition for abandoning the mark and joining EMU. The Germans believe that without binding rules countries like Italy would become inflationary free-riders, using Europe's low interest rates to ease the costs of financing their huge budget deficits but adding to the entire community's inflationary pressures with their fiscal profligacy. Given the political record of the Italians and Greeks, the German fears seem well justified.

This will make Britain's resistance even harder to explain or justify to European partners who are less jealous of their national sovereignty and democratic institutions. The present Conservative government is proud of its record of fiscal restraint. Perhaps for different motives, a Labour government might be equally hostile to an EC fiscal ceiling imposed with the aim of disciplining Italy and Greece.

But, say the pragmatists, Britain can probably ignore such minutiae of fiscal union, as France and Italy ignore so many directives at present. Why not just sign and avoid the hassle? But the case against fiscal union, like the case against a single currency and against excessive centralisation generally, rests on a matter of principle.

The principle is that national parliaments should determine such central democratic business as levels of redistributive taxation and public spending. If the government intends to sign this away in the cause of EMU co-operation, it should explain why with crystal clarity.

SHOWDOWN IN SLOVENIA

This week's declarations of independence by the Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia were rash, but yesterday's crack-down in Slovenia by the Yugoslav army risks making the confrontation worse.

"All resistance will be crushed" said the army commander in Slovenia, General Kolesik. In a complex conflict of legitimacy, this was impossible to dispute. The blame for the present impasse is shared by all concerned; and there are no simple solutions. Ante Markovic, the federal prime minister, has in the past shown himself a figure of moderation, at least by Yugoslav standards. The last thing he, as a native Croat, can wish to see is the ruin of the tourist industry on which Croatia is so dependent. Yet, with British tourists being flown home, that is what his cabinet's orders to the army threaten to bring about. Even if further deaths can be avoided, the sight of tanks on the streets is already driving away countless visitors.

Western reaction too must avoid crudity. The West cannot resolve Yugoslavia's problems. Nor however, can it remain indifferent, not least since civil war would create an intolerable outflow of refugees. The European Community summit in Luxembourg should send a firm message to Yugoslavia today. It should oppose the use of military force to resolve this constitutional dispute. It should warn against a similar deployment in Croatia. In Slovenia, the troops should return to barracks as soon

as the Slovenian government gives an undertaking not to impede movement across its borders. More positively, the heads of government should state their willingness to mediate impartially between the warring parties.

Austria and Italy have already given notice of their intention to resort to the new mechanisms of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. This requires only 12 member-states to summon a full meeting of the CSCE. Under the new CSCE rules, unless the Yugoslav government can give a satisfactory explanation of its conduct within 48 hours, such a meeting could in theory be assembled next week. Though the CSCE has no power to compel Yugoslavia (a signatory to the Paris treaty) to refrain from the use of force in Slovenia or Croatia, it can add its moral pressure to that from the summit, and might be better placed to appoint mediators.

The unpredictability of Yugoslav politics makes it all the more important that Western Europe should now be firm with Belgrade. Yugoslavia need not disintegrate totally. The interests of Serbs in Croatia are obviously a legitimate concern of both the federal and Serbian governments. But the Slovenes, Croats and other nationalities who seek greater autonomy will only be strengthened in their determination by any attempt to imitate the strong-arm tactics of Tito.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Chairmen's huge pay increases

From Mrs Rae Linnett
Sir, Mr Blenlyth Jenkins of the Institute of Directors assured viewers of BBC TV's *One O'Clock News* on June 25 that if they thought it was injudicious that the chairman of British Gas, Mr Robert Evans, should accept a 66 per cent rise in salary, taking it to £370,000 (report, June 22), the solution was simple and lay in the hands of the shareholders.

It is not so much simple as impossible. Suppose you are an ordinary gas shareholder willing to take up the case for dismissing Mr Evans, or at least persuading him to forgo this provocative rise until more prosperous times.

After drafting a resolution stating your case, with the expensive help of a specialised solicitor, you must then seek out 100 shareholders who each hold £100 worth of shares.

If, with perseverance, time, money, and travelling facilities at your disposal, you now have this resolution, you then obtain from the British Gas board the names and addresses of all 2.2 million shareholders, who must be circulated (with printed pre-paid postal replies) and asked to vote on the contents.

Such an undertaking would be impossible for any group of shareholders to organise. Moreover, the number of shareholders free for an annual meeting in Birmingham on a Thursday afternoon in August is so limited as to make no impact.

In any event, the board of directors of British Gas invites prominent business or professional people known to it to act as non-executive directors, and it is they who determine the chairman's salary.

Yours sincerely,
RAE LINNETT,
16 Brookside, Cambridge.
June 26.

From Mr Ivor Hall
Sir, With the continued increase in the number of unemployed, the recent spate of huge pay rises for directors of recently privatised firms shows how little thought this government gave to the subject. They could quite easily have included requirements for the incumbents to receive the same pay increases as they would wish on their employees.

Prior to privatisation, those now wallowing in their new-found wealth were quite happy with salaries set by the government, which were relatively modest.

I should like to see legislation to ensure that the salaries of all directors are declared in annual reports and that proposed salary increases are put before the shareholders before they are finalised rather than, as at present, a fait accompli.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR HALL,
34 Bisham Gardens, N6.
June 26.

From the Director of the International Freedom Foundation
Sir, John Major's criticism (report, June 26) of the current round of salary rises for the senior management of many of the recently privatised industries indicates a disturbing weakness in the government's approach to the operation of industry.

A private company has no obligation towards anybody in terms of its internal salary and other structures, least of all the government. As Peter Morgan of the Institute of Directors so correctly pointed out at its recent national conference (report, April 24) the current economic downturn is a product of government, not industrial failure. It clearly follows that the less the government has to do with private business activity the greater the latter will prosper.

Yours faithfully,
MARC GORDON, Director,
International Freedom Foundation,
Suite 500, Chesham House,
150 Regent Street, W1.
June 26.

Macleod's choice

From Mr Torquil Macleod
Sir, With today (June 26) being the 21st anniversary of my late father becoming, sadly briefly, Chancellor of the Exchequer, after Edward Heath's general election win on June 18, 1970, it is most disturbing to read John Grigg's article ("Pride comes before policy when feuds turn bloody").

My father's sole reason for refusing to serve in Sir Alec Douglas-Home's government was that he believed R. A. Butler, the best qualified candidate, should have succeeded Harold Macmillan.

Yours faithfully,
T. MACLEOD,
c/o Barclays Bank,
191 Earls Court Road, SW5.
June 26.

Treating sex offenders

From Ms Liz Dixon and others
Sir, We share the scepticism expressed by Dr Eastman and his colleagues (June 17) about the home secretary's plans for the treatment of sex offenders in prison. It is unlikely that there are sufficient numbers of trained staff to carry out such treatment; there are certainly not sufficient numbers of probation officers who, as the home secretary puts it, would be ready to take over where the prison staff left off.

There has been no consultation with our professional association over the proposed increase in work with sex offenders. No thought has been given to the needs of women

Making the best of the army's mood for change

From Lieutenant-General Sir Jeremy Reilly

Sir, I was encouraged, naturally, to read Sir Philip Goodhart's letter (June 25) urging reconsideration in the light of commitments of the proposal to reduce to 34 the number of British infantry battalions. There is, however, more to this intended reduction than just size and commitments. So far neither concept nor objectives — other than numbers of battalions — for the future organisation of the infantry have been spelled out.

Not surprisingly, in the absence of adequate direction, the management of change has fallen by default, for the time being at least, to a level too low to avoid interminable attitudes or to achieve an organisational structure with inherent overall flexibility to meet the needs of nation, army and those who serve for many years to come — flexibility, that is, to expand or contract without contortion as well as to draw full advantage from the correlativity of the regular and territorial battalions of regiments.

However, whatever the shortcomings of the euphemistically titled "Options for Change" (was "Defence Review" too honest?) and its apparent outcome (based upon arbitrary budgetary and manpower ceilings rather than likely commitments and strategic concept) this review does provide opportunity to build upon the principles for the reorganisation of the infantry which the Army Council of the day accepted 29 years ago and then fumbled when implementation met controversy.

This is not such a daunting prospect and much of the serving army expects no less, seeing as it can that regiments with several regular and territorial battalions show that the infantry is half way there already. This is the nettle which today's Army Board must grasp when the director of infantry tells them soon, as he surely will, that he has not achieved consensus.

Historically, army councils have tended to exaggerate to themselves the antipathy of the army's mood towards change, their dithering indecisiveness over the mechanisation of the cavalry during the inter-war years being a good example. We really cannot afford a repetition and yet there is just such a danger if events are allowed to lead themselves where resistance is least: to the brink of another muddled compromise of limited durability just waiting to store away grief and difficulty for the future.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP DAVIES,
c/o Army and Navy Club,
36-39 Pall Mall, SW1.
June 25.

From Mr C. R. Goodall
Sir, If Mr King follows your advice (leading article, June 20) and gives a lead to the army on its restructuring, I hope that he consults with his colleague in the Department of the Environment about the implications for tourism, which falls outside the MOD's remit.

The future of the Household Division's current structure is apparently under consideration. Major changes, irrespective of the strength of theoretical rationale to the contrary, will undoubtedly impact on ceremonial duties and could

in time destroy the integrity of our ceremonial heritage. As someone who has identified and verified, through detailed market research, the need for a ceremonial centre to explain the history and nature of our military pageantry, I trust that when we eventually find a suitable location we will not have to inform our visitors that our state occasions format dates from the early 1990s.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES R. GOODALL,
10 Crescent Lane, SW4.

From Sir Frederick Corfield, QC
Sir, If, as mooted, the two Household Cavalry regiments are amalgamated, can we be confident that a single regiment will be able to train both officers and other ranks as fighting soldiers if their regimental service is interrupted by ceremonial postings? Similarly, the Foot Guards clearly need a minimum number of battalions if they are to carry out their ceremonial duties and remain the splendid fighting units which they undoubtedly are.

Since it would clearly be neither sensible nor fair to inflict additional costs on regiments of the line solely in order to maintain ceremonial capability would it not be better to meet part of the "peace dividend" by relieving the defence vote of the costs of purely ceremonial units and of an appropriate part of the costs of maintaining the Foot Guards?

These functions constitute a considerable tourist attraction while overseas visits significantly contribute to good international relations. Would it not be more appropriate for the cost to fall upon the Department of Trade and Industry and/or the Foreign Office?

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK CORFIELD,
Wardings Orchard, Sheepscombe,
Stroud, Gloucestershire.

From Viscount Ridley
Sir, If, sadly, several famous regimental titles have to go with the reduction of the number of infantry battalions in the regular army, could they not transfer to the territorial army?

This could mean that, if the need arises to expand the army, as it probably will sooner or later, these names could be revived without too much difficulty and their identities preserved.

Yours sincerely,
RIDLLEY,
House of Lords.
June 25.

Orange badge abuse

From the Chief Executive of Arthritis Care

Sir, Arthritis Care represents the largest group of people with physical disabilities in this country. We are concerned that people who walk only with pain and difficulty and who rely on their orange car badges to be able to reach shops, banks, libraries, or doctors should continue to be eligible for a badge.

We agree with the Department of Transport that abuse of orange badges should be stopped by the introduction of photographs, and through proper enforcement of the regulations, but not by narrowing the eligibility. Many people with arthritis get out of a car to meet lack of understanding, and even verbal abuse, from passers-by who think that only those in a wheelchair can have a disability.

The one group which might be expected to have a proper understanding of the problems of the disabled is the medical profession. Yet the East Suffolk division of the BMA has nothing better to put forward as a motion to the BMA's annual representative meeting on July 2 than its belief that "the orange badge system is the most abused privilege in history".

Is the independence that mobility brings really a privilege?

Yours sincerely,
JEAN GAFFIN, Chief Executive,
Arthritis Care,
5 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1.
June 21.

Gibraltar at games

From Mr N. Stevenson Pugh

Sir, I have recently been exposed for the first time to Olympic *realpolitik*. I found the experience disturbing. My involvement was simply to help friends from Gibraltar put their case (for the umpteenth time in 30 years) for Olympic recognition.

This time round they were acknowledged to qualify without any ifs or buts, by territorial definition and international sporting recognition (by seven international federations against five required).

Moreover, they scotched the Spanish opposition at last by tracing it back to a political directive from Madrid to block them on all possible occasions. The Olympic charter specifically rules that national

Holidays in Egypt

From Dr Mohamed Sheha el-Hamid

Sir, The *Holiday Which?* survey referred to in a report which you published on May 7 ("Egypt tops holidaymaker sickness league") was not conducted on a proper scientific or statistical basis. The type of ailment, its severity or nature was not clarified, and it was not monitored by qualified research doctors. It was based on a questionnaire, but no objective examinations had been made.

The incubation period for *Giardia lamblia* is between three days and six weeks and the disease occurs worldwide, including advanced countries. The visitor to Luxor, whose illness was cited, could well have contracted it prior to her visit.

No serious medical cases have been reported affecting visitors to Egypt during 1991.

Yours faithfully,
MOHAMED SHEHA el-HAMID
(First Under-Secretary),
Ministry of Health,
Hagios el-Shaab Street,
Kairo, Egypt.
June 18.

In the limelight

From Mrs John Temple-Smith

Sir, Your music critic's opinions must, of course, be his own ("When more means much less", Arts, June 25) but I do think he should get his facts straight. Not that it causes me all that concern, but my four black Great Danes have shown a lofty contempt at being referred to as "Scarpia's mastiffs". The Great Dane has rightly been called "the Apollo of all the breeds" and that is why my four, grandmother, mother, son and daughter, are proud to play their part each night at Earl's Court in Francesca Zambello's glorious production of *Tosca*.

Yours sincerely,
MAUREEN ANNE TEMPLE-SMITH,
Jeffcoates, Hempton,
Deddingdon, Oxfordshire.
June 25.

Vain pursuit

From Mr John R. T. Miller

Sir, I applied for a modest number of shares (and received less) in the two English power companies; my name stayed in the computer. I have been mail-shot four times for the Scottish companies. I have been chivvied by television advertising (all at my expense). I apply for a modest £1,000 worth of shares. Yesterday I'm slapped in the face — nil.

Was it all worth it?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. T. MILLER,
11 Hunters Way,
Park Hill, Croydon, Surrey.
June 18.

Monetary 'anschluss'

From Mr Leonard Griffiths

Sir, Professor Hahn and Mr Weale (June 22) perform a public service by drawing attention to the similarities between our present economic problems and our return to the gold standard in the 1920s. However, it was not returning to the gold standard per se which caused the 1929 slump but returning to it at a pre-war parity which was wholly inappropriate so many years later.

Joining the ERM with sterling grossly over-valued is an almost identical blunder and may well have similar results.

In February 1991, as Anatole

Never brought to justice, however

Offering treatment to a handful of imprisoned rapists will therefore hardly make the world a safer place for women and children. Research is important but we must also begin to tackle the misogynist and aggressive behaviour which is associated with male sexuality.

Yours etc,
LIZ DIXON,
FRANCES MINHNINICK,
CHARLOTTE MITRA,
FIONA MORTON
(Working group on sex and violent offenders),
London Branch,
National Association of Probation Officers,
289 Borough High Street, SE1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to Fax number — (071 782 5046).

School for modern scandal



Class barrier: Bill Thomas and Lynn Whitehead in *The Blackboard Jungle*

NEW RELEASES

DEFENDING YOUR LIFE (PG): Albert Brooks as an average neurotic American, put on trial in the afterlife. Dwindling, funny comedy, with Hedy Burress. Brooks also directs. Curzon West End (071-439 4805). Screen on the Hit (071-435 3366).

THE NAKED GUN 2½ — **THE SMELL OF FEAR** (12): Leslie Nielsen returns as accident-prone Lt Frank Drebbin. Raunchy dead-pan comedy. With Priscilla Presley, director, David Zucker. Cannon: Baker Street (071-435 9772). Fulham Road (071-272 2633) Empire (071-437 9899) Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

NAVY SEALS (18): Dull, deplorable action yarn about a US commando unit in the Middle East. With Charlie Sheen, director, Lewis Teague. Odéon: Kensington (071-272 9944) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Granada (071-438 0781).

CURRENT

LA CAPTIVE DU DESERT (PG): Raymond Dapkin's satirical study of a European woman held hostage by an Arab tribe. Beautiful to behold, but depressing. Renou (071-437 9402).

CLASS ACTION (18): Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as a lawyer and his wife fighting opposite sides of a lawsuit. Fine acting; awkward script. Director, Michael Apted. Cannon Parkway (071-257 7034) Plaza (071-437 9899) Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

LA GLOIRE DE MON PÈRE (U): Episodic politics through Marcel Pagnol's childhood memories — decent, nostalgic, but excessively warm-hearted.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Δ) on release across the country.

With Philippe Caubère, director, Yves Robert. Lumière (071-898 0891).

THE HAIRDRESSER'S HUSBAND (18): A can tale of romantic obsession, memorably told by the director of *Monter Hime*. Patricia Leconte, Jean Rochefort, Anne Galem. Cannon: Plaza (071-435 2443) Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742/3743) Gaiety (071-727 4043) Metro (071-437 0757).

THE KING OF NEW YORK (18): Christopher Walken as a ruthless hoodlum with style. Energetic thriller that finally gets out of hand; director, Abel Ferrara. Cannon: Oxford Street (071-430 0310) Parkway (071-430 0311).

LA STORIE (18): Steve Martin's western finds true love in wacky Los Angeles. Whimsical fantasy comedy that just misses the mark. With Victoria Tennant, director, Mick Jackson. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-272 2633) Haymarket (071-438 1527) Oxford Street (071-430 0311) Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

MISERY (18): Oscar-winner Kathy Bates as the number one fan tormenting a best-selling novelist (James Caan). Splendidly sinister from Stephen King's novel. Director, Randa Haines. Cannon Parkway (071-257 7034) Plaza (071-437 9899) Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

LA GLOIRE DE MON PÈRE (U): Episodic politics through Marcel Pagnol's childhood memories — decent, nostalgic, but excessively warm-hearted.

NOT WITHOUT MY DAUGHTER (12): Sally Field as an all-American wife trying to escape the ravages of the Texas drought, plagued by puppets. With Alvin Karpis, director, Brian Gilbert. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-272 2633) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-438 8811) Plaza (071-437 0899).

THE POPE MUST DIE (12): Tired, mid-comedy from the Comic Strip troupe, with Robbie Coltrane as an honest fool who is hilariously humiliated. With Beverly D'Angelo, director, Peter Richardson. Cannon: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odéon: Kensington (071-432 6444) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) West End (071-430 3252/7615).

RIFF-RAFF (15): Marvellous, raucous "side of life" portrait of a building-site crew from director Ken Loach. Cannon: Tottenham Court Road (071-638 6148) Screen on Baker Street (071-885 2172).

THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (18): Jodie Foster's FBI trainee confronts Anthony Hopkins, evil, intelligent, intense, highly polished, and equalled thriller from director Jonathan Demme. Cannon Parkway (071-257 7034) Cannon: Oxford Street (071-430 0310) Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-438 1527) Oxford Street (071-430 0311) Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD (18): E.M. Forster novel about the English abroad; amusing, pretty, but unsatisfactory. Starring Helena Bonham Carter. Report: Graves, director, Charles Sturridge. Odéon Haymarket (071-438 7687).

THEATRE

The Blackboard Jungle Royal, Stratford East

IF DARIO Fo can write angry farces about the murder of an anarchist by corrupt cops, or the kidnapping of an industrialist, why should not an Englishman have some purposeful fun at the expense of the 1988 Education Reform Act? Some such thought must have gone through the head of Patrick Prior, the one-time teacher who is now the Theatre Royal's resident dramatist. That may be why his *Blackboard Jungle* gives the impression of having been jointly conceived by Ray Cooney and Dennis Skinner: the king of silly-accident comedy and the Beast of Bolsover.

Bill Thomas's Doyle is the left's horror-comic notion of the new kind of headmaster, a former spiv busily destroying a school which has opted out of local authority control. His idea of education is to sack his experienced teachers while buying computers nobody can work. His energies variously go on advertising and marketing, selling off the playground, and persuading a condom company to sponsor what he calls "age-weighted pupil units", meaning the kids. He has no sympathy for colleagues struggling along with one copy of *Macbeth* per 11 children. "I didn't become a headmaster to teach," he says, not

without a certain professional pride. Prior reads plenty such bittens detail into the record during the evening. But he does also realise that he needs an entertaining plot. Thus it emerges that Doyle's computers have been stolen and are being aggressively sought by the police in the form of a school inspector turns out to be on the prowl and, for reasons never made clear, must not see the heart-shaped helium balloons the image-conscious Doyle has had stamped with his academy's name. Consequently, most of the evening consists of his desperate attempts to conceal incriminating evidence, helped by a cowering Paul Barber and a simpering Yvonne Edgell, caretaker and secretary respectively.

Jeff Teare's production undeniably has its moments. A scene in which Barber and Thomas inveigle Glyn Grimstead's glowering copper into singing sentimental songs at some steel drawers, on the grounds the locks are voice-activated, might have been concocted by the Fo of *Can't Pay, Won't Pay*. But most of the fun is in a less whimsical tradition. There is much inadequately motivated rushing about with boxes, many bumps and bloody noses as doors bang open and shut. The verbal humour is a bit self-consciously bright, too. "Once more into the breach, as the dirty washing said" — that sort of thing.

Meanwhile, didactic quips proliferate. "Whatever happened to voca-

tion?" "I think it was privatised." "We're dealing with dirt powers beyond our comprehension." "It's called Conservative education policy." Whatever the play offers, it is not great imagination or sophistication.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

TELEVISION

Under the Sun BBC 2

IN THIS week's *From Wimps to Warriors* (BBC 2), a Leeds-born woman showed the camera crew around her Beverly Hills home, with the words: "You know what the Americans say. If you've got it, flash it." Watching last night's *Under the Sun*, about India's substantial population of eunuchs, it became apparent here that the "flash it" motto applies more compellingly when there is something that you haven't got.

Decked out in jewellery, saris and long black hair-pieces, the painted eunuchs parade down dusty streets, chattering and smiling and snacking together their hands as though summoning spirits. Tradition dictates that people give them money. But if there is the merest hesitation, the eunuchs clinch the transaction by hauling their skirts above their waists

and shouting the local equivalent of "Here, take a butcher's at this." Unfortunately, "butcher" would be right. It was quite a while before Michael York's film answered the ghostly anatomical questions that must have lurked in many viewers' minds, but when all was revealed — within minutes of the film's close — the truth proved distressing. The answers were: a) chopped off with a knife; and b) yes, the penis was well.

Kiran, a well-born young man with lustrous eyelids who had opted for castration and cross-dressing as a means of securing the attentions of his gay lover, displayed his terrible wound and defended his reasons. To be properly cared for by a man in India, he said, you must emulate a woman. But there was a horrible possibility he had misjudged the situation. The lover seemed unmoved by Kiran's sacrifice, and reproachfully mentioned Kiran's inability to have babies. Some men are never satisfied.

The role of the eunuch ranges from the sacred to the profane. In Rajasthan, a huge household is ruled by a

non-like guru (known as the Empress), who presides at celebrations, gives healing to babies and coolly demands hundreds of rupees for her services. In Bombay, on the other hand, the community of "sisters" is in thrall to a recumbent open-mouthed madam, who packs them off each evening to the red-light district.

Meanwhile the lovely Kiran, four months after castration, admits to feelings of regret. He says he feels trapped and powerless, and advises his friend Harish to keep a hold on his virility. Harish has a wife and children, but is radiant among the eunuchs, begging and flirting. Kiran predicts he won't resist the appeal of castration. Anyone who enjoys dressing up like a woman, he says, will opt for castration ultimately.

Let us hope he never sees *Manhattan Cable* on television. It would be dreadful for him to discover that, in some parts of the world, the only transvestite imperative is an obligation to host your own chat show.

LYNNE TRUSS

THEATRE GUIDE

Patrick Prior's British education in some rough farce. Theatre Royal Stratford East, Gaiety Puffs Square, E15 (081-534 0110). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

BLACK SNOW: Robin Bailey a suburban funny Stanislawski figure in Bulgakov's *Idiot* (Moscow, 1935). National (Columbia), South Bank, SE1 (071-252 2232). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.30pm. 14mins.

BLUE REMEMBERED HILL: Seven adult play children in first-class version of Dennis Potter's tale. Mon-Fri 10.30am, Sat 10.30am, Sun 10.30am, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 10.30pm.

THE CARETAKERS: Donald Pleasence in Pinter's classic tussle between a tramp and two brothers. Comedy, Parkway Theatre, SW1 (071-857 1045). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sun, 3.15pm.

CARMEN JONES: Clancy production of the Hammer/Brit film about the French composer. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm, 1.15pm.

COMEDY OF ERRORS: Desmond Barril plays both twins in a part Disney-past production. Bedford, St. Street, EC2 (071-438 8881). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm.

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA: Brian Friel's *Amhar* (Irish) in a new production. Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1044). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 1.15pm.

DICKENS WORLD: Spoken, silent, and the gurgles by Mervyn Gwynne. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 5811). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 1.15pm.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Jason

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

Some seats available
Seats at all prices

Donovan sports a golden wig for the play, *Brave New World*. W1 (071-404 5037). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE KING AND I: Susan Hampshire returns with David Wills. Victoria Theatre, Victoria Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8916). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 18mins.

MACBETH: Peter Woodward and Nicola McNeill in a sturdy production. Open Air Theatre, Regents Park, NW1 (071-462 4431). Tonight, tomorrow 8pm, mat tomorrow, 2.30pm.

MATADOR: The rise of The Boy from Newburgh. Grand and sets but a weak second half. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-438 8881). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm, 1.15pm.

THE PHILANTHROPIST: Captivating performance by Edward Fox in Christopher Hampton's comedy. Menier, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 3pm, 1.15pm.

THE ROSE TATTOO: Julie Walters in Pinter's play about the joys of a celebration of a son. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-838 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm, 1.15pm.

THE GIRLS: 70. Inevitable. Don't miss the cast of 100-year-olds in a general Kander & Ebb musical. Vauxhall, Strand, WC2 (071-838 9887). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 1.15pm.

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre

CONCERTS

Imrat Khan/Rostropovich Queen Elizabeth Hall/Barbican Hall

THE announcement by Imrat Khan, in the middle of his QEH recital on Wednesday, that he would be playing a rag for the monsoon season won him a chuckle of pained sympathy from an audience needing no instruction in rainy seasons. But still it was fascinating to have from him an outline of the affective, illustrative qualities of what he was about to play. Behind the rag, as he put it, we would be able to hear fresh breezes, rain-washed trees, clouds rolling by, comfort coming after the heat and dust. One imagined something like Debussy's "Jardins sous la pluie".

But his performance, on the deep-voiced subbar without accompaniment, was nothing like that. The feeling was subdued, even as it seemed melancholy, as he explored both the rag and his instrument, moving through its generally slow 40-minute performance from its gray-rick bottom register to its bright top. Perhaps my interpretation is too much coloured by European codes, or perhaps his commentary could be no more than a metaphorical attempt to name the ineffable. Certainly his bearing throughout the improvisation sug-

gested meditative soulfulness more than running about in the showers. He was very different in two rags played on the sitar, joined by the flipping fingers of a young tabla player whose eager alertness he gently mocked in almost erotic games of rhythmic trickery. The mood now was cheerful, radiant, but also coloured by Imrat Khan's becoming modesty. He gives the impression of one for whom listening comes before playing: the music is there in the air, and he waits for it. Or it can wait for him. The sense of the music's objectivity, that is collected and not generated, is affirmed by the short breaks he will take in the middle of some passage to dust his strings, while the music circles like a plane stacked over Heathrow.

Also, because he makes no pretence to be the music's source, he can unaffectedly share his audience's delight, as here over a sudden rush of excited octave leaps. Improvisation becomes a matter of uncovering what is already there; in slower music it can seem that he makes his way revisiting the notes of the rag to see how they are getting on, often with a particular emphasis on what in western music would be the leading notes whose tense dissonance provides the energy for the constantly renewed arabesque of glissando in which he shows the fecundity of his imagination.

The night before, in the Barbican Hall, it was the turn of another master string player: the cellist Mstislav

Rostropovich. He too is a great listener, but where Imrat Khan's eyes and ears dance in space, Rostropovich's stare is set firmly on the conductor (here Rafael Frubick de Burgos), or more rarely on the leader, not so much waiting attentively for his cue as willing them to play the music his way. As perhaps they did, though the technician-glossy orchestral playing in Bloch's *Schelomo* was pretty similar to what we heard in the two works without Rostropovich: Rossini's *William Tell* overture and Stravinsky's 1919 *Firebird* suite, the latter a rhythmic shambles.

The justification for this odd assortment of pieces was a common connection with Switzerland, the concert being part of the Festival of Switzerland in Britain. At least that provided an occasion to hear Honnegger's 1939 Cello Concerto, an amiable single movement which cannot decide whether to follow Gershwin or Bach. Rostropovich relished its light inventiveness and its musing character, and seized attention, not least for his extraordinary pianissimo, even when he was notionally accompanying — though the joke of a feigned subjection of the soloist here was surely part of Honnegger's playful intention. This was, significantly, the only solo concert by a composer who had his doubts about western Romantic egoism.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

OPERA
Così fan tutte
Teatro della Pergola, Florence

JONATHAN Miller seems to enjoy giving the Italians (as well as British opera critics) a hard time, and sometimes they respond in kind. Some feared that his updated *Tosca* — well-known at the Coliseum but born at the Maggio Musicale — implied the Church's support for the Nazis, and Christian Democrat politicians indignantly tried to censor it; the revival this year has been picketed for "profaning Puccini's masterpiece".

In Miller's new *Maggio* production of *Così fan tutte* the disguised lovers behave like grotesque parodies of preening Mediterranean manhood, which could be taken as an unkind joke at his hosts' expense. But there are no pickets, and the audience laughs a lot.

An exceptionally beautiful fixed set allows us to glimpse the torrid rooftops of Naples from the cool grey-marble seclusion of the young ladies' villa; ancient statues adorn the room, with special emphasis on the male torso. The day's events are caricatured by the constantly changing light on the terrace outside, while Sue Blane's colour-coded costumes register changes in attitude and expectation by a gradual contamination of white.

There is no whiff of "concept", the period is firmly 18th century, and Miller concentrates on detailed depiction of predicament: Fiordiligi's dreamy but intransigent idealism, for instance, is so convincingly developed that her seduction comes as a shock to us too. Lella Cuberli's well-drilled singing makes up in intensity what it lacks in ease, and her edgy Fiordiligi is contrasted with the assurance of Cecilia Bartoli's mercurial Dorabella.

Frank Lopardo commands both the honeyed lyricism and the dramatic fire for Ferrando but alternates abruptly between them, while Natalie De Carolis's sensual, freely-produced baritone is ideal for Guglielmo. Joan Rodgers is a funny, exaggerated Despina who has the audience hanging on her every word. In the pit, Zubin Mehta takes a leisurely, caressing approach that is sometimes at odds with the tensions being generated on stage.

NIGEL JAMIESON

WORD-WATCHING

PTOCHOCRACY
(c) The rule of beggars or paupers, wholesale pauperisation, from the Greek *ptochos* a beggar + *kratos* power. "The British government is neither aristocratic monarchy nor limited monarchy, nor aristocracy, nor democracy, but may be called a ptochocracy or government of beggars."

THAR
(b) The native name in Nepal of the goat antelope, *Nemorhaedus ibellianus*. "Thar is a massive beast, twice the size, and has suborbital stripes, and a mass along the back of the neck."

HASSAR
(c) A South American nest-building, land-walking catfish (in the American sense), from the native South American Indian: "The hassar is as good a walker as the climbing perch."

RAFALE
(c) A series of bursts of gunfire, also a roll of drums, from the French for a gust of wind: "The rafale, or shell-storm, is the method practised by batteries of French artillery to prevent the advance of infantry."

WARNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Novotelnov — Chistyakov, Tbilisi 1949. Black to play and win.



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8510 1434
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86

Navy to order three new frigates

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THREE frigates are to be ordered for the Royal Navy, the government announced last night, bringing to 13 the number of Duke Class Type 23 frigates in the fleet and giving a much-needed boost to British ship-building.

The announcement was made by Kenneth Carlisle, under secretary of state for defence procurement, during a Commons debate on the navy. Invitations to tender for the contract, worth more than £350 million, were issued yesterday to Yarrow, Swan Hunter, Vosper Thornycroft and VSEL.

Three of the Type 23 frigates, designed mainly for an anti-submarine role, are already in service and a further seven have been ordered. The last frigate order was in December 1989.

Mr Carlisle also announced studies into the design of a new nuclear-powered hunter killer submarine, based on the current Trafalgar Class vessel. This was confirmation that the defence ministry has abandoned plans for a new class of nuclear submarine, the SSN20 or W Class. The new submarine, based on Trafalgar, would enter service around the turn of the century, Mr Carlisle said.

He also confirmed that a design study was under way for a future anti-air warfare frigate to replace the Type 42 destroyer. One of the options is an Anglo-French frigate, an eight-nation frigate project, NFR90, collapsed after Britain and other participants withdrew.

Mr Carlisle said that the future Royal Navy would be a balanced and flexible force with up-to-date and effective equipment and high quality personnel, "more than equal to the threat it would face".

Under the "options for change" defence review, the government is committed to a naval strength of around 40 destroyers and frigates. The number of submarines is being cut from 27 to 16.

Mr Carlisle made no announcement about replacing the two old amphibious vessels, HMS Intrepid and Fearless. He said that the government planned to order an aviation support ship to provide dedicated helicopter lift for the Royal Marines, although it was unlikely this year. Three of the old command landing ships would also be refurbished "very extensively".

Submarine cuts, page 4



Drop shot: a non-scientific but effective rain-measuring technique being employed by a member of the scoreboard staff at Wimbledon yesterday

Cold and rain puts June among the records

Continued from page 1
similar "shoot-out" was played. If the rate of rainfall continues to the end of the month, 89.7mm of water will have fallen compared with the average of 72mm.

"That compares with 97.6mm in 1987 and 150mm in 1960. It will have to rain very very hard over the coming days to get as wet as that," the Meteorological Office said.

Gauges at Edinburgh airport had

collected 56.5mm of rain by 9am yesterday, which compares with a long-term average of 64mm between 1951 and 1980. In Plymouth 111.3mm had fallen by yesterday morning, compared with the same long-term monthly average of 56mm. At Heathrow airport 77.1mm have so far fallen this month, against an average of 51mm, and the London Weather Centre has collected 81.8mm of rain. Nevertheless, the rainfall is

less dramatic when set against other rainy years. "There have been wetter Junes since 1940. In 1958 we had 109.2mm, with 98.7mm in 1964 and 108mm in 1971," a spokesman at the weather centre said.

Some records have, however, been falling this month. The Edinburgh centre said that Aberdeen had had its coldest June day on record with afternoon temperatures reaching only 7.9C on June 2. The skies over

London this month could also be the dullest since 1929.

So far only 105.5 hours of sunshine have been recorded over the capital which, if conditions persist, could add up to just 121.7 hours by the end of June. The previous dullest June was in 1987 when the sun shone for just 127.2 hours. The Met Office said that temperatures over central England have been "fairly special," averaging 12C below normal.

Big rise in HIV among mothers

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST one in every 500 sexually active women in inner London is carrying the Aids virus, and the rate is doubling every year, according to the most comprehensive study of its kind, published today.

The findings, which show a tenfold increase in HIV infection in the past three years among women giving birth in the capital, have dismayed experts at the health department. If the rate of increase continues, the epidemic will soon be on a similar scale to those of New York and other American cities, an editorial in *The Lancet* says.

A similar study in the journal shows high infection rates among mothers in Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen. The results indicate an even wider spread of the virus generally among women in these cities, because only a

minority of them become pregnant. Of that minority, most are likely to be in stable relationships.

The London study is based on routine pinprick blood samples taken from more than 320,000 babies born in inner and outer London between July 1988 and March of this year. The samples showed



Sir Donald: "Increase has disturbing implications"

how many babies were born with antibodies to HIV, thus revealing how many women were infected. In 1988, the rate was one in 2,000, but had risen to one in 500 by March.

This is an alarming increase that has deeply disturbing implications, Sir Donald Acheson, the government's chief medical officer, said. The figures tell us only about HIV infection among women giving birth. The majority of young, sexually active women are not pregnant and have more sexual freedom than those who become mothers. This study should persuade young men and women, not just in London, of the need to be careful in their sexual behaviour.

The study was conducted in three of London's four health regions by researchers led by Catherine Peckham, of the Institute of Child Health. One of the findings was that in only 20 per cent of cases did

maternity hospital staff know that the mother was HIV positive, an indication of the extent to which the infection goes unrecognised in the heterosexual population. Professor Peckham and colleagues say that antenatal HIV screening policies in London underestimate the spread, and suggest all pregnant women should be offered HIV tests.

Although there is evidence that many of the women in the studies became infected abroad, or through intravenous drug abuse, the results clearly suggest that heterosexual spread of HIV is accelerating in the general population.

All babies born to HIV-positive mothers have antibodies to the virus, but only about 15 per cent of the infants are truly infected. Their status cannot be determined accurately until they have shed maternal antibodies, by about 18 months.

Tourists told to fly home

Continued from page 1
passengers already on board heading for a Thomson Holidays package in Pula was lined up for take off at Gatwick airport when it was announced that the flight had been cancelled. "We sat on that plane for almost an hour," said John Robson of Romford.

"It is disgusting. The only person who spoke to us was a stewardess who told us to get off and took us back into the customs area. Then they confiscated all our duty-free - two bottles of spirits. They said if you opened the bottle you would have to pay duty on it."

The passengers were handed a letter from Thomson's apologising for the inconvenience. "Our next step will be to try and arrange an alternative holiday for you," said the letter.

Political sketch

Sorry, we're fresh out of answers

"THE prime minister is examining a plan for up to a million public servants to wear name badges, to make them more responsive to customers and give them greater pride in their work". Or so reported *The Times*.

I like the idea. These days we are all "customers", but the new thinking has bastions still to storm. After all, if we are no longer passengers on British Rail, but customers, and if tattooed applicants for DHS loans to replace a lounge suite eaten by the family's pet Rottweiler are to consider themselves customers too, why should MPs have "constituents" any longer? Surely these, equally, are customers. And do "backbenchers" or "hon friends" question ministers? Are they not the secretary of state's customers?

When ministers wear name badges, then and only then shall I believe that the PM's citizens' charter is working.

"Complaints or suggestions? Norman, heading our treasury team, is on this line". Norman did not himself say "how can I help you?" yesterday, but his friendly smile at the dispatch box said it for him. Several customers wanted to know about the hard ecu Norman tried to sell them last year.

As Chris from Islington pointed out, the sharp-crested on Wednesday thought he heard the PM refer to his "hardened" ecu plan. Well spotted, Chris. Hardened ecu - softened plan. Ministers have quietly dropped the hard ecu. In citizens' newspeak "the hard ecu has been discontinued due to lack of customer demand".

That is not quite how Norman put it. Still on a learning curve, Norman said there were "various ideas of hardened ecu along a spectrum..." Among these excitements he mentioned "a basket ecu". Golly. "A whole area has been stimulated by our original pro-

posals". R.I.P. hard ecu. So farewell, then. Hard ecu. We hardly knew you.

Not every customer had come to complain. Mr Wells from Hertford meant to help. Seeing Norman under pressure from brolly-waving customers over bosses' salary increases ("fat cat greed race," as an enraged customer, Mr Foulkes, spluttered), Mr Wells comforted Norman: "Those who price themselves out of the market will lose their jobs." Take care, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, or the Bank of England, facing bankruptcy, may hire a cheaper governor.

Gill handled this best. Perhaps the fastest learner in the team, the treasury's minister of state, has the hang of citizens' newspeak already. One of her customers yesterday, an awkward old bloke called Sir John Stokes (C, Stourbridge & Halesowen) asked her whether he was alone in feeling that if he were a worker he'd be jolly glad to see his boss get a whacking big pay increase.

The honest answer, that Sir John would hardly have suited the moment.

Gill dealt admirably with this hot potato: "I'm not sure if that's a question but I must say it's an admirable expression of your sentiments," she told him. And have a nice day, Sir John.

Dave, I fear, the chief secretary - "hi! I'm Dave, fly me!" has a long way to go. He forgot that the customer is always right: even snarling Mr Campbell-Savours, who brayed "where will the money (for tax cuts) come from?" something snapped.

"Have y'done?" Dave shouted. "Shut up saying 'where will the money come from'."

Somebody, a rather rude customer, shouted something at the chief secretary. I think it was "swanker".

MATTHEW PARRIS

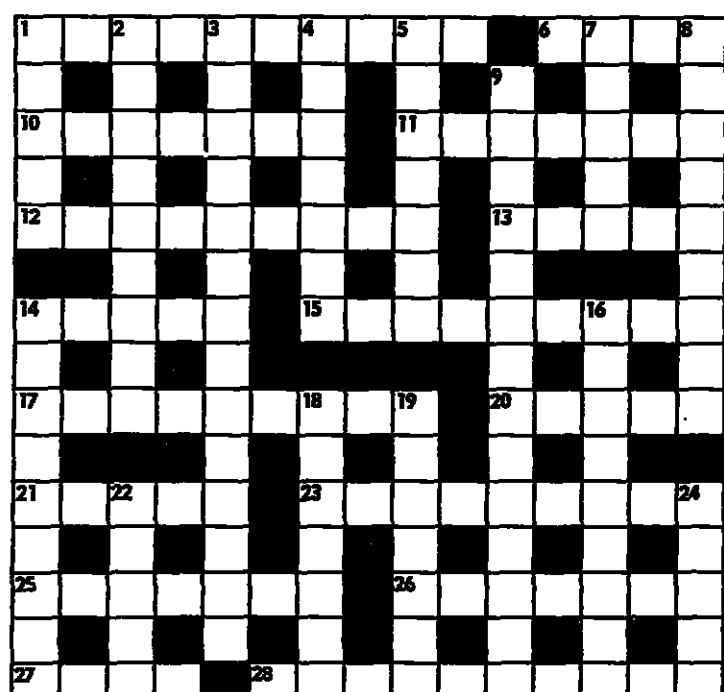
TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

"We're fitter than them", said the captain, "and we're only a few points behind. OK, a couple of the guys are injured, and I've dislocated my shoulder, but all I want to say is, I play really hard in this last quarter".

Whatever you say, skipper. Not that Australian Rules Football looks anything short of really hard at its softest moments, which are few. The game is catching on in England, though exactly what the rules are in Rules remains a mystery to most of us. Callum Murray explains all.

Plus: A wet and dry guide to the best of what's on over the weekend, in town and out

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,644



ACROSS
1 Money going on the house wine (10).
6 Poet's verse one inserted in unfinished poem (4).
10 US city getting mad with CIA (7).
11 She gets involved with Sue and Penny, in place of Diana (7).
12 He'll give nothing away and hide pirate (9).
13 Start fighting round roadblock initially (3,2).
14 It's an offence, pinching article of Continental type (5).
15 Recipient of money holds gold back as security (9).
17 Get weaver to drink a toast (7,2).
20 At one time, you beat retreat fast (5).
21 Tree sparrow a naturalist shelter (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,643
TRAUMA ADVOWMENT
LOCARNO INTERMIT
ECHOING ORGANS
SCHOOL DAYS
GOOSE C
OILWELL ASHAMED
PILLOW
EXCITED DRIVERS
A
DUDE MEYHUBER
I
NANETTE CROPPER
E
ZANK K
DRAUGHTS DELETED

DOWN
1 Jersey and Guernsey, say, as place for yachting (5).
2 Record-holder accomplished 7 changes (9).
3 Coward's work shortened fight (5,9).
4 University's books (7).
5 Disinclination to move, in time, is holding it up (7).
7 Attack German weapon on unfinished site (5).
8 Finding modern type of musical entertainment jolly (9).
9 The English play (4,5,5).
10 Plant experts introducing Russian boy to skills (9).
11 Tragedy's beginning, in fact, in a touching way (9).
12 Two-thirds of orchestra confused about unknown piece of music (7).
13 A despot corrupted magistrate in Italy (7).
14 Hazard to shipping requires one to take care in sound (5).
15 Trick had briefly taken in the Venetian official (5).

Concise crossword, page 17

WEATHER

By Philip Howard

PTOCROCRACY
a. The kingdom of the blind
b. Artistic disintegration
c. Rule by beggars
THAR
a. Nordic god of peace
b. The Himalayan goat-antelope
c. Obsolete Siamese silver coin
HASSAR
a. A Hungarian cavalryman
b. A Persian tea party
c. A land-walking catfish
RAFALE
a. Wind of the Mezzogiorno
b. Battle of Britain Beer
c. Rapid burst of artillery
Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.
London & SE
C. London (within N & S Circles).....731
M-ways/roads M4-M1.....732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.....733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23.....734
M-ways/roads M23-M4.....735
M25 London Orbital only.....736
National
National motorways.....737
West Country.....738
Wales.....739
Midlands.....740
East Anglia.....741
North-west England.....742
North-east England.....743
Scotland.....744
Northern Ireland.....745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Wales, Northern Ireland and southwest England will be mostly dry with long sunny spells although it will become more cloudy. East and southeast England and the Midlands will begin dry with some sunshine but showers will develop during the morning with heavier bursts during the afternoon, these dying away later. Northern England and Scotland will be mostly dry with sunny periods. Outlook: more rain.

ABOARD BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
Aberdeen	10	10	10	10
Belfast	10	10	10	10
Birmingham	10	10	10	10
Blackpool	10	10	10	10
Bournemouth	10	10	10	10
Bristol	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10
Colwyn Bay	10	10	10	10
Eastbourne	10	10	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10	10	10
Exmouth	10	10	10	10
Glasgow	10	10	10	10
Harrogate	10	10	10	10
Humberside	10	10	10	10
Leeds	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10
Merseyside	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	10	10	10	10
Newquay	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10
Penrith	10	10	10	10
Poole	10	10	10	10
Reading	10	10	10	10
Scarborough	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10
Southend	10	10	10	10
Swansea	10	10	10	10
Torquay	10	10	10	10
Truro	10	10	10	10
Weymouth	10	10	10	10
Wick	10	10	10	10
Widnes	10	10	10	10

Notes for sea destinations: temp only as supplied by British Bank P.L.C. Different rates apply to transient/charter.

WEATHER

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Eastbourne	10	10	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10	10	10
Exmouth	10	10	10	10
Glasgow	10	10	10	10
Harrogate	10	10	10	10
Humberside	10	10	10	10
Leeds	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10
Merseyside	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	10	10	10	10
Newquay	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10
Penrith	10	10	10	10
Poole	10	10	10	10
Reading	10	10	10	10
Scarborough	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10
Southend	10	10	10	10
Swansea	10	10	10	10
Torquay	10	10	10	10
Truro	10	10	10	10
Weymouth	10	10	10	10
Wick	10	10	10	10
Widnes	10	10	10	10

Notes for sea destinations: temp only as supplied by British Bank P.L.C. Different rates apply to transient/charter.

WORLD WEATHERCALL

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
Australia S	22	20	20	20
Austria S	22	20	20	20
Belgium F	18	18	18	18
Canada S	18	18	18	18
Denmark F	18	18	18	18
Finland S	18	18	18	18
France F	18	18	18	18
Germany F	18	18	18	18
Greece S	18	18	18	18
Hong Kong S	18	18	18	18
India S	18	18	18	18
Italy S	18	18	18	18
Japan S	18	18	18	18
Netherlands F	18	18	18	18
Norway F	18	18	18	18
Portugal F	18	18	18	18
South Africa F	18	18	18	18
Spain F	18	18	18	18
Sweden F	18	18	18	18
Switzerland F	18	18	18	18
Turkey F	18	18	18	18
USA S	18	18	18	18
Yugoslavia F	18	18	18	18

Notes for sea destinations: temp only as supplied by British Bank P.L.C. Different rates apply to transient/charter.

GLASGOW

Germany Un	3.26	21.28
Greece	32.20	31.00
Hong Kong S	13.08	12.00
Ireland Pt	1.145	1.070
Italy Un	2225.00	2136.00
Japan Yari	242.00	224.00
Netherlands Gld	3.44	3.22
Norway Kr	11.99	11.10
Portugal Esc	289.00	248.00
Spain Ptas	167.55	155.00
Spain Pes	190.50	177.50
Sweden Kr	11.3	10.38
Switzerland Fr	2.63	2.50
Turkey Lira	7500.00	6700.00
USA \$	1.725	1.600
Yugoslavia Dnt	1.485	1.350

Rates for all destination banks only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-27
- FOCUS: SOUTH KOREA 28-30
- MOTORCYCLING 31
- MOTORING 33
- YOUR OWN BUSINESS 34
- SPORT 36-40

M0 up to 1.9% in June

THE Bank of England's latest weekly figures point to growth in M0, the officially-targeted narrow money measure, to an annual 1.9 per cent in June from 1.5 per cent in May (Colin Nairn writes). The acceleration was seen by some economists as possibly the "faint stirrings" of recovery. The M0 estimates are based on the Bank's notes in circulation data. In the fourth week this month they showed an increase of 1.5 per cent over the equivalent week last year.

British manufacturers' capital spending dropped almost 6 per cent in the first quarter this year and was 16 per cent below the same quarter last year, the Central Statistical Office showed.

WEEKEND MONEY TOMORROW

PROFILE
Dick Giordano is often described as having a matinee idol look. As chairman of BOC, he also has a salary to match. He talks about his life to Carol Leonard.

FRAUD CLAMPDOWN
Anyone going on a spending spree at the summer sales could arrive home to a mysterious phone call. Lindsay Cook reports on Barclaycard's latest weapon in the fight against fraud.

HOME FROM HOME
As repossession mount, Sara McCann advises that renting out one's home could be the solution to mortgage problems.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6335 (-0.0065)
German mark 2.9289 (+0.0023)
Exchange index 89.7 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1912.0 (-10.5)
FT-SE 100 2452.5 (-15.2)
New York Dow Jones 2929.79 (+16.78)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23543.03 (-223.35)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Stern Group 840p (+12p)
Rediff 559p (+8p)
Simon Eng 329p (+11p)
Sedley 180p (+8p)
Rank Org 960p (+45p)
THORN EM 741p (+14p)
Wales Common 308p (+11p)
FALLS:
Granger 134p (-19p)
Estates & Agency 260p (-15p)
BTP 204p (-9p)
Dagbladet 835p (-10p)
ADT 612p (-61p)
Flogas 195p (-30p)
Hawker Siddeley 540p (-13p)
Burford Brew 117p (-18p)
News Corp 350p (-19p)
Presidio 270p (-10p)
Countrywide 187p (-12p)
Closing Prices...Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11 1/2%
3-month Bank Rate: 11 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.56-5.54%
30-year bonds 96-96 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £/\$ 1.6335
E: DM2.9289 £/DM 1.7945
E: Sfr2.5270 £/Sfr 1.5484
E: FF9.5355 £/FF 10.6685
E: Yen226.59 £/Yen 163.26
E: Index297.7 £/Index 100
ECU £0.70085 £/ECU 1.0000
E: ECU1.42778 £/ECU 1.0000

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$355.30 PM \$354.80
Close \$354.70/\$355.20 (\$223.50-224.00)
New York: Comex \$355.85-357.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$18.10 bbl (\$18.05)
Dated latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.5 May (1987=100)

Goodison blames recession, poor management and judgment

Hill Samuel pushes TSB to £150m loss

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE TSB Group has crashed to an unprecedented loss of £150 million after suffering massive bad debt provisions in Hill Samuel, its merchant banking arm.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, said the loss, caused by a £440 million bad debt provision, was not only due to the recession. He also blamed poor management and poor judgment. He added that he hoped, but was not certain, that there would be no need for further heavy provisions in the second half.

Hamish Donaldson, the former head of Hill Samuel, left the group in March, along with Ted Emerson, the managing director of the corporate banking division.

The loss in the six months to end-April compares with a pre-tax profit of £175 million for the first half last year. Despite the disastrous downturn, the group is maintaining its interim dividend at 3.15p.

Hill Samuel has been forced to provide a record £344 million against its £5 billion loan book, £295 million higher than a year ago. The provisions pushed the merchant bank to a £319 million loss. Huw Freedberg, the new head of Hill Samuel, said that a tenth of his bank's loans are in arrears, by far the worst experience of any leading bank in this recession.

Mr Freedberg denied that the bank had over-provided to boost profits in future years. He said: "We have made an analysis of the loan book on current security values, not hopeful values in the future."

The loss was met with astonishment in the City, where analysts had been expecting TSB to break even at worst. Brokers are waiting anxiously for the rest of the high street banks' figures at the end of July, with Midland forecast to make another loss and National Westminster only expected to break even. TSB is expected to struggle to break even in the full year, despite an exceptional profit on the sale of its bank in Northern Ireland.

A large part of the provisions are thought to have been made against Brent Walker, to which Hill Samuel is estimated to have a exposure of more than £120 million.

Don McCrickard, TSB's chief executive, said: "There were unacceptable management shortfalls." He later admitted, however, that he chairs TSB's credit committee and had personally passed all Hill Samuel's loans of more than £25 million. "You look at a loan at the time and you make a judgment," he said. "I don't feel very good about it. One would like to have a crystal ball but you don't."

Sir Nicholas said that Hill Samuel increased its loans substantially in the late Eighties, when the economy was booming and property values were rising. He said: "The timing could hardly have been worse. Hill Samuel was not alone in enlarging its book at the time. There was a common optimism among finan-

cial institutions and in the economy generally."

TSB bought Hill Samuel for £777 million in 1987. Sir Nicholas, who joined the group in 1989, has since criticised the price as too high. After the acquisition, TSB injected extra capital and encouraged the bank to lend. As a result, it increased its lending by a third in the first quarter of 1989 alone.

Mr Freedberg said Hill Samuel's lending policy has been rewritten, and said the bank's loan book will be completely reorganised in the next five years. Mr Freedberg said that in contrast to the earlier strong growth, the bank's loan book had shrunk by £350 million in the past half year, and would continue to fall.

A credit committee meets every day at the bank, and the new policy encourages loans to smaller companies and forbids lending where cash flow and interest cover fall below set levels.

Mr McCrickard hinted that he and the other executive directors would take pay cuts as a result of the losses. He said: "A large part of my earnings are profit-related. Draw your own conclusions."

The losses at Hill Samuel concealed a strong performance from TSB's retail bank, which is enjoying the benefits of last year's reorganisation. Pre-tax profits here rose 21 per cent to £197 million, despite a rise in personal bad debts of 191 per cent.

Comment, page 23



Bad news: Sir Nicholas (left) and Mr McCrickard before announcing the loss yesterday

Wessex trims final payout

By OUR FINANCIAL EDITOR

WESSEX Water has trimmed the increase in its final dividend to 14 per cent after warnings by Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, over excessive rises in the privatised industry.

Wessex had the highest notional rise of the ten water companies in its interim payment - no interim dividends were actually paid for 1989-90 - but its total dividend for the year to end-March is only slightly above the average, at up 16.3 per cent.

Nicholas Hood, the chairman, said Wessex still hoped to raise dividends above inflation from its core water business, as envisaged when price limits were set. He said Essex also had the prospect of delivering a considerable stream of profits in the unregulated business it has set up in a £63 million equity-financed joint venture with Waste Management, the American group.

Pre-tax profits increased an effective 17 per cent to £66 million, on turnover up 13 per cent to £167 million. Operating costs rose only 5 per cent.

Mr Hood claimed that Wessex delivered the best standards of quality and compliance with standards of any of the privatised groups. He said investment was on schedule, and that the £1.3 billion ten-year programme would be achieved ahead of target.

Capital spending at £97 million was below the £107 million originally planned for 1990-1, but only because £10 million of anti-drought measures had been brought forward into 1989-90.

Comment, page 23

Greycoat hurt by £64m provision

By MATTHEW BOND

GREYCOAT, the property investment company with a one third interest in the redevelopment of Paternoster Square, London, has reported a pre-tax loss of £38.5 million (£20.4 million profit) for the year to end-March.

The fall resulted from a £64 million provision against properties bought for development, including a £19.6 million provision against the Paternoster project.

Greycoat's balance sheet was also hit by the slide in property values, with the value of its investment portfolio falling by 13.6 per cent.

The firm's wholly owned investment properties have been valued at £720 million, with a further £107 million owned through associates. Shareholders' funds slid 34 per cent to £468 million, while gearing rose to 80 per cent. Geoffrey Wilson, chairman, said the average cost of borrowing was less than 10 per cent. Net assets per share fell from 726p to 477p.

Shares closed 6p higher at 249p, helped by a maintained final dividend of 2.9p, to give an unchanged total of 5.2p.

Paternoster prospects, page 23

Power profits surge

By MARTIN WALLER

DUNCAN Ross, the chairman of Southern Electric, held out the prospect of price rises next year of below the rate of inflation, as the reporting season for the industry continued with two more sets of higher than forecast profits.

Mr Ross predicted with "a reasonable degree of confidence" that tariffs imposed from next April would be below the then rate of inflation.

Southern raised its prices 10.9 per cent for the current financial year. London Electricity, also reporting year-end profits yesterday, imposed a similar increase this year but would not say if the net price rise would be below inflation. Both companies continued the trend of reporting pre-tax

profits substantially higher than forecast in the prospectus published in November ahead of their stock market debuts.

Southern produced profits in the year to end-March of £139.6 million, against a forecast of £122.7 million, despite £33 million of one-off provisions not included in the prospectus.

London produced £141.8 million pre-tax, against £115.6 million forecast.

Both companies are paying the level of dividend already promised to shareholders, 10.12p in the case of Southern and 10.45p for London.

They are following the trend established by the two other distributors that have reported by electing not to dip into the excess profits to increase the payout. Scottish Power, one of the two Scottish companies whose shares started trading on the stock market last week, also reported yesterday. The full-year figures were in line with the prospectus. Pre-tax profits were £144.7 million, up from £130 million. The company is not paying a dividend.

The shares are only 4p ahead of the price they were floated at, and the share issue has disappointed many smaller investors.

Duncan Whyte, the finance director, said the government had ignored the company's request to set a higher yield and so ensure some profit in the after-market.

Tempus, page 23

BPB joins queue for cash

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR



Turner: profit warning

BPB Industries, Europe's leading plasterboard manufacturer, is seeking £125.5 million in a move that takes the cash raised by Britain's building and construction groups in recent months to more than £1 billion.

The rights issue, under which shareholders are offered one new share for every five held, at 155p a share, accompanied grim trading news. Pre-tax profits fell from £126.4 million to £90.8 million in the

year to March 31, and were flattened by a £21.8 million exceptional profit, comprising surpluses on disposals less redundancy costs.

Alan Turner, BPB chairman, issued a warning that the difficult short-term trading outlook would be reflected in the first-half profits.

The group held the dividend at 11.25p a share, with an unchanged final of 7.25p.

Tempus, page 23

Ups and downs of life at OFT

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

AFTER more than 15 years as director general of fair trading, Sir Gordon Borrie admits he is still sometimes alternately euphoric and depressed as he busts illegal cartels or stops consumers being misled or ripped off, then finds restraints of trade coming round for the second time or learns of new malpractices that are not covered by existing laws.

In the sixteenth and final year of a tenure that has set the standards for the new generation of regulators, Sir Gordon is still not sure if all the moves to tighten protection have actually made life better for consumers but is convinced that eternal vigilance will be needed as new crooks and sharp practices emerge.

"I am afraid there are still far too many examples of businesses that are dishonest or engaged in misleading market-

ing, or inefficient or cavalier in their treatment of the consumer," Sir Gordon said as he introduced his annual report.

Competition is the best cure. "No one has yet created a better instrument than lively competition to produce satisfied customers. As the consistently most successful enterprises demonstrate time after time, treating customers well pays off handsomely in market share and profitable growth." But there are limits. "While competition is essential for consumer choice, it is not enough." Much of the OFT's recent consumer protection work has been in highly competitive businesses such as time-share property sales, estate agency and the motor trade.

There were about 700,000 official consumer complaints last year, including those logged by citizens advice bureaux and trading standards offices. Many more do not complain. "There remains a

large iceberg of consumer dissatisfaction," Sir Gordon admitted.

The OFT is now curbing unethical behaviour by estate agents under rules that enable it to stop agents trading. Complaints about timeshare operators soared 123 per cent to 8,516 last year. The Trade Descriptions Act is to be amended and the government is trying to persuade Brussels to draw up an EC-wide directive on this international business.

Banks, which have been facing criticism over their treatment of small businesses, are also upsetting some personal customers as complaints in this category rose 33 per cent to 2,478.

This year, Sir Gordon plans a report on illegal loan-sharking and is holding a conference, on various forms of sharp practice which he regards as objectionable and oppressive but which are not illegal, which he hopes will lead form to a new consumer protection bill.

Lonrho wins leave to sue Fayed

By ANGELA MACKAY

LONRHO, the international trading group run by Tiny Rowland, was given leave in the House of Lords to proceed with a damages action against the Fayed brothers and their merchant bankers for alleged fraudulent misrepresentation and conspiracy to injure during the £615 million takeover of House of Fraser and its flagship store, Harrods, in 1985.

Lord Bridge of Harwich, heading five law lords, said the Fayed, House of Fraser Holdings, Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, and John MacArthur, a former Kleinwort director, had not demonstrated that Lonrho's action against them was "doomed to fail." The action, which was initiated in 1987, will therefore proceed to trial at the High Court.

Lonrho said in a statement that it would be claiming "tens of millions of pounds." So far, Lonrho's shareholders have spent about £28 million on taking and defending legal action during the prolonged dispute. Lonrho's own bid for House of Fraser was blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1981 and Mr Rowland later sold his company's 36 per cent stake in House of Fraser to the Fayed.

House of Fraser said that "it could see no realistic prospect of the action succeeding at trial", while Kleinwort said the House of Lords had not made any ruling on Lonrho's claim and said the claim was "wholly without merit".

The law lords upheld a 1989 Court of Appeal decision allowing Lonrho to proceed with its fraudulent misrepresentation claim and overturned the same court's ruling striking out Lonrho's conspiracy claim.

Lonrho also yesterday unveiled flat profits of £109 million for the six months to end-March and held the interim dividend steady at 5p. The shares rose 6p to end at 246p, reflecting the success of the appeal in the House of Lords and profits in line with brokers' forecasts.

The recession in Britain affected manufacturing and motor retailing and the company has embarked on a rationalisation programme. Mining made the most impact on the first half.

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Walker to seek court protection

By NEIL BENNETT

GEORGE Walker, the sacked chief executive of Brent Walker, is going to the High Court on Monday to stop the leisure group's banks from voting their shares off the board.

Mr Walker has served writs on eight of the banks in Brent's bank steering committee. He is seeking an injunction to prevent them voting their shares for his removal at an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday. The writs demand that the banks withdraw their call for his removal as a condition for agreeing to Brent's £1.4 billion refinancing.

Brent's board needs a 75 per cent majority to oust him, his wife and John Hemingway, another director. The banks, which stand to lose hundreds of millions if the refinancing fails, are Standard Chartered, Hill Samuel, Lloyds, Arab Banking Corporation, Credit Agricole, the Bank of Yokohama, Svenska Handelsbank and the TSB.

Bundesbank hints at tighter policy

From WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU in Berlin

THE Bundesbank has warned the German government not to allow "matters to carry on as they are", and indicated that a decision to tighten monetary policy would be taken at its next council meeting on July 11.

The unusually tough statement came after the Federal Statistics Office announced a surprise 0.5 per cent rise in the rate of inflation in May, bringing it to 3.5 per cent on an annual basis, the highest level since April 1983.

News of the rise caused an increase in the German money market rate to just less than 9 per cent — the official Lombard emergency funding rate.

A further rise in inflation is expected next month when a range of indirect tax surcharges, in particular a 10 pfennig increase in petrol

duties, will come into effect. After a meeting of the central bank council, Karl Otto Pöhl, the outgoing president of the Bundesbank, said the Bundesbank would discuss a possible revision of its money supply target range at its next meeting.

There is concern that the current range for M3, the broad money supply target used by the Bundesbank, of 4 to 6 per cent, is too lax. Although growth in M3 is below 4 per cent, it is expected to rise faster during the rest of the year.

The council decided yesterday not to change interest rates, but Johann Wilhelm Gaddum, a Bundesbank director, admitted that the present level of inflation "creates worries, and we will do all in our power to counteract this". He said the recent rise in

inflation was causing concern inside the Bundesbank, and might lead to "economic changes which are undesirable". He added, however, that recent increases in interest rates had yet to work through the system and refused to speculate on possible rises in the discount and Lombard rates.

Herr Pöhl, who has described German monetary union as a "disaster", called for less intervention and more market, and warned the government not to increase transfer payments to eastern Germany, which are costing an annual DM150 billion.

He said: "For the future, it is important that the western part of Germany must not be overstrained, because the health of the western economy builds the foundation for the recovery in the east."



Cookson's chief: Malpas returns to corporate stage

PowerGen ex-chief will chair Cookson

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ROBERT Malpas, who shocked the City last November by quitting the chairmanship of PowerGen, the electricity generator, has returned to the corporate stage to chair Cookson, the debt-burdened industrial materials group.

Cookson was forced by recession to sell large parts of its business at bargain basement prices last year, but its efforts to restore market confidence have yet to succeed.

Mr Malpas, aged 63, a former managing director of British Petroleum, resigned from PowerGen after a boardroom dispute just before the power industry privatisation started. His resignation embarrassed the government.

The link between his departure from PowerGen and the Hanson conglomerate's £1.5 billion offer for the power generator was never clear, but it was seen in the City as one of the initial causes of friction between Mr Malpas, an outsider at the public sector utility, and the PowerGen board.

However, his track record, which includes building up the European operations of ICI, which now contributes a quarter of the chemicals group's income, should help Cookson to overcome the rocky patch it has been going through.

Mr Malpas said yesterday that Cookson had straightened itself out and that he would continue to build on that.

TGI losses deepen to £820,000

By PHILIP PANGALOS

TGI, the troubled loudspeaker group, has unveiled increased full-year losses and plans to strengthen its management.

Nigel Hamilton, the former head of Anglo Nordic and Black and Decker, will be appointed chief executive from August 1, replacing Tony Bennett, who resigned last December. Michael Windsor, a former managing director of Vickers, will be appointed a non-executive director.

TGI, which is best known for its Tannoy public-address system and Goodmans speakers, unveiled deepening losses of £820,000 (£101,000) in the year to end-March, on turnover of £44.4 million (£54.8 million). There was an extraordinary loss of £5.31 million, relating to the disposal of the factored products division and a provision for the loss on the disposal of Xylo at the end of last month. There is a 7.8p loss per share (0.1p), and no final dividend (4p), making 2.2p (6.2p) for the year. Shares fell 4p to 29p.

TGI recently asked Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, its former auditors, to resign in a dispute over £1.1 million of alleged overstated profits at Tannoy Audix, a public address and broadcasting systems maker acquired in 1989. TGI said KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the new auditors, has completed its investigation, and Audix's pre-tax profit of £1.1 million has been restated to show a loss of £700,000.

Caledonia unchanged at £35.3m

CALEDONIA Investments, the investment company controlled by the Cayzer family, reports pre-tax profits unchanged in the year to end-March at £35.3 million. The final dividend is up 1p to 9p, making 13.5p for the year, up 12.5 per cent.

In April, Caledonia cashed a tranche of £82 million of its preference shares in British & Commonwealth, even though B&C was placed in administration last summer. The preference issue was guaranteed by B&C's bankers. Caledonia is due to cash its final £82 million tranche next year.

Investment income fell £5.2 million because of the fall in the B&C holding.

Share offer values Eurocamp at £59m

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Eurocamp, the self-drive camping and caravan holiday concern, are being offered at 225p a share, valuing the company at £58.9 million.

Eurocamp, a management buy-out from Next in 1988, is seeking a full listing on the London Stock Exchange through an offer and placing sponsored by Lazard, raising £24.8 million for the company after expenses.

The proceeds will be used to repay borrowings of £20 million and redeem £13 million of convertible preference shares issued at the time of the £32 million management buyout.

The 20-strong management team, headed by Richard Atkinson, managing director, is cashing in 15 per cent of its shareholding to realise a total

of £1 million. Management will be left with about 10 per cent of the quoted company.

Eurocamp is offering almost half of the 12.82 million shares to the public. The balance is being placed with institutional investors. Rowe & Pitman and Allied Provincial Securities are brokers.

The company is forecasting profits before interest of £8.5 million for the 12 months to end-October, compared with £7.7 million and £5.8 million in the two previous financial years. Pre-forma earnings per share are forecast at 20.8p, implying a price/earnings ratio of 10.8 at the issue price.

Investors are promised a final dividend of 5.5p a share, payable in April. On an annualised basis, the dividend would be 8.5p a share and the notional gross yield 5 per cent.

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	2929.79 (+16.78)	Paris: CAC	470.32 (-3.10)
Dow Jones	349.26 (+1.67)	Zurich: S&K Gen	336.0 (-3.4)
SEK Composite	373.26 (+1.67)		
Tokyo:		London:	
Nikkei Average	23543.03 (-223.35)	FT-A All-Share	1178.88 (+5.88)
Hong Kong:		FT-100	1305.37 (+7.05)
Hang Seng	3623.79 (-4.85)	FT Gold Mines	107.6 (-0.7)
FTSE Euro 100	1116.92 (+2.13)	FT Fixed Interest	82.81 (+0.01)
Amsterdam:		FT Govt Secs	83.43 (-0.02)
CBS Tendency	83.9 (+0.6)	Bargains	257.28
Sydney: AO	1500.8 (-6.1)	SEAO Volume	544.8m
Frankfurt: DAX	1668.09 (-6.05)	USM (Datastream)	127.43 (+0.22)
Brussels:			
General	5746.62 (-8.52)		

*Denotes latest trading price

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

American consumer spending rises 1.1%

MICHAEL Boskin, President Bush's chief economist, has given the White House's strongest statement to date that the American recession is over. His comments followed a report from the commerce department that consumer spending, which accounts for about two-thirds of America's economic activity, rose 1.1 per cent in May. The rise was larger than expected.

Economists have estimated that the improvements could boost gross national product growth in the second quarter to about 2 per cent. But other statistics, especially unemployment data, are expected to show little or no improvement in the coming months. Mr Boskin said that a wide range of evidence, including stronger car sales and new orders for durable goods, suggested the country was "in the early stages" of an upturn.

Monarch hit by low prices

MONARCH Resources, the London-listed gold mining group, has written off goodwill of \$35.55 million because of low gold prices and the disappointing operating performance of the 49 per cent Revenim reprocessing plant in Venezuela. The company also incurred pre-tax losses of \$6.3 million (\$365,000 profit) last year. Attributable losses were \$41.75 million.

SEC launches law suit

THE Securities and Exchange Commission in New York is suing Mark Sando, West Bloomfield, Scott Burman, Birmingham, and Richard Triagle, Grosse Pointe Woods, all from Michigan. The suit claims they ordered more than \$65 million in securities without putting their own funds at risk. The suit seeks to force the men to repay any profits generated.

Gardner rejects bid

DC Gardner Group, the training and consultancy company, has rejected a takeover approach announced this week because "the proposal would not be in the best interests of shareholders". On Tuesday, shares jumped 25p to 79p after news of the bid, which was "substantially in excess" of the then market price. The shares remain unchanged at 79p.

At the same time, DC Gardner urged shareholders to support a £4.1 million rights issue announced earlier in the month. This is aimed at reducing the group's borrowings, believed to stand at more than £12 million.

Tax hopes at Tie Rack

TIE Rack, the specialty retailer, said it expected to benefit from a tax credit after the Inland Revenue confirmed that the company's overseas subsidiaries were resident in Britain for tax purposes. As a result, substantial losses incurred by subsidiaries in America may be offset against British profits. The company expects to receive a tax credit this year.

Willoughby declines

WILLOUGHBY'S Consolidated, the Zimbabwean gold miner and cattle rancher controlled by Lonrho, reports a fall in pre-tax profits to £270,000 (£1.11 million) in the six months to end-March. Turnover declined to £5.67 million (£7.14 million). Investment sales led to an extraordinary profit of £351,000. Earnings slipped to 5.1p (9.4p); interim dividend is maintained at 1p.

N Sea oil output falls

SUMMER maintenance and post-Piper Alpha disaster safety work pushed down North Sea oil production last month to its lowest level for two years. Economists at the Royal Bank of Scotland said May's output was nearly 9 per cent down on the previous month and its daily value of £16.2 million was about half that produced last autumn. Chevron's Ninian field and BP's Magnus field shut down for three weeks for safety work, while routine maintenance at BP's Forties field reduced its production by half.

COMPANY BRIEFS

GRAHAM WOOD (Fin)	Pre-tax: £821,000 EPS: 17.6p (35.9p) Div: 2.5p, mkg 5.5p (8p)	Last time's profit was £1.75m. Turnover grew to £43.8m (£39.8m). Extraordinary loss of £674,000, mainly due to closure costs.
ARTHUR LEE & SONS (Int)	Pre-tax: £323,000 EPS: 1.05p (5.41p) Div: 1.85p (1.65p)	Last time's profit was £2.72m. Turnover fell to £54.9m (£63.4m). The company blames the recession for a sharp decline in demand.
WILSHAW (Fin)	Pre-tax: £732,000 EPS: 0.61p (1.35p) Div: 0.2p, mkg 0.3p	Last time's profit was £1.67m. Last time's total dividend was 0.35p. Exceptional debit of £182,000 (nil).
TAMS (JOHN) (Fin)	Pre-tax: £2,68m (£2.52m) EPS: 8.34p (8.25p) Div: 2.41p, mkg 4p	Last time's total dividend was 3.78p. Turnover grew to £20.4m (£18m). The net asset value per share climbed to 36.82p (£1.44p).
VISTEC GROUP (Fin)	Pre-tax: £1.78m (£1.59m) EPS: 0.95p (0.92p) Div: 0.2p (0.1p)	Turnover declined to £31m (£28m). Extraordinary credit of £61,000, compared with a debit of £97,000 last year.
BRISTOL EVENING POST	Pre-tax: £4.77m (£7.91m) EPS: 13.54p (20.7p) Div: 7.75p, mkg 11.5p	Final results. Last time's total dividend was 11.5p. Turnover fell to £81.4m (£83.5m). Advertising revenues fell by 12.4 per cent.
BERKELEY GROUP (Fin)	Pre-tax: £165,000 EPS: 0.3p (0.3p) Div: 5p, mkg 4.5p (4.5p)	Turnover grew to £204,000 (£228,000). Extraordinary provision of £760,000 (£2.83m). Interest payments were cut to £877,000 (£2.94m).
HARDY & HANSON'S (Int)	Pre-tax: £3.45m (£2.94m) EPS: 45.915p (38.195p) Div: 13.4p (11.2p)	Turnover grew to £13.4m (£11.5m). Company said it will be difficult to achieve the same rate of profit increase in the second half.
CLYDE BLOWERS (Int)	Pre-tax: £126,207 EPS: 9.2p (6.9p) Div: 0.83p (0.83p)	Last time's profit was £91,837. Company said British competition is more intense and margins are under increasing pressure.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000			
Abbey Nat	2,378	Century	1,825	Lloyds	1,475	Rothmans B	1,053
Adia-Lyons	1,232	CU	834	Lucas	1,257	Royal Bank	941
Anglian	2,216	Courtauld	214	M&S	1,227	Royal Ind	949
ASDA	2,227	Enterprise	448	M&S	1,227	Sainsbury	1,146
AB Foods	346	Euromoney	258	Midland	1,227	Scott & N	497
Argyll	1,488	Peapack	1,802	MEPC	921	Seas	9,542
Arjo Wagg	1,079	Porta	1,104	Midland	1,509	Servint Time	2,483
B&A	1,717	Gen Acc	689	Nail Power	4,243	Shell	3,377
BET	2,808	GEC	8,027	Nat West	2,725	Smith & N	1,295
BTH	1,984	Glaxo	3,514	N W Water	844	SK Beach	1,812
BAT	2,113	Grand Met	1,181	P&O	574	Sun Africa	680
Bellway	2,010	GLS W	87	Pearson	1,451	Tate Lye	1,677
Beech	1,003	GRE	461	Pfizer	290	Tarmac	1,088
BICC	227	Guinness	856	PowerGen	3,130	Tesco	1,665
Bk Scotland	888	Hanson	1,822	Prudential	2,134	Thorn EMI	4,570
Blue Circle	1,897	Hanson	8,068	Racal	1,204	Thames W	1,650
BOC	728	H & C	559	RAC	401	Transit	3,314
Bovis	1,154	Howker	401	RAC	401	Unilever	553
Br Aero	1,016	Howker	1,280	RAC	401	United St	759
Br Airways	1,722	ICI	898	RAC	401	Unilever	553
Br Gas	7,262	Kingsfisher	1,259	Reed	585	Wm Morris	1,085
Br Petrol	6,079	Lisimo	500	Reed	585	Wm Morris	1,085
Br Steel	1,834	Ludbrook	3,454	Reed	585	Wm Morris	1,085
Br Telecom	6,416	Land Sec	475	RTZ	1,727	Wm Morris	1,085
C&W	1,131	L&G	787	R-Royce	2,411	Wm Morris	1,085

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Profits from operations and dividend maintained

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

See shareholder.

The half year figures for Lonrho in 1991 have been maintained at £109 million with earnings per share of 9.3 pence. A second interim dividend has been declared at 5 pence giving a total dividend to date of 8 pence per share which is in line with the 1990 dividends.

The Group's mineral extraction and refining activities made a substantial contribution to profits. Production of Platinum group metals increased by 50% compared to 1990. Taken together with the high price of rhodium, substantial increases in profits from mining were achieved. Gold production increased by 29% with Ashanti being the major contributor.

In Europe, and particularly in Germany, profits continued to improve. Harrison & Sons were recently awarded a major contract to supply passports to the Polish Government.

The Group's Hotel operations were affected by the Gulf War, although occupancies have already begun to improve. The unique niche which the Metropole Hotel Group in the UK has achieved in the Conference field has been a benefit to their profits. The extension to the London Metropole will be completed by the end of September 1991. This hotel will provide some of the best conference facilities in London.

The recession in the United Kingdom has affected manufacturing and motor retailing but VAG, which distributes Audis and Volkswagens, has performed well. Textile operations have maintained profits compared to 1990.

Rationalisation and cost cutting exercises have been carried out throughout the Group. This will result in operations being leaner, and well poised to take advantage of an upturn in demand.

Capital expenditure of some £100 million in respect of the Metropole Group of Hotels is virtually complete. The development of the Platinum group metals expansion is now in its final phase.

In common with all businesses, Lonrho is benefiting from the reduction in interest rates. The Group has also benefited recently from the strengthening of the dollar; many of the Group's operations are tied to dollar trading.

Given steady commodity prices (platinum, rhodium, gold, sugar, etc.), the outlook for the whole year is encouraging.

Yours sincerely,
R W Rowland
27 June 1991

HALF YEAR RESULTS

The unaudited results of the Lonrho Group of companies in respect of the six months ended 31 March 1991 are as follows:—

	6 MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 1991 £m	6 MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 1990 £m
Turnover	2,392	2,565
Profit before tax	109	110
Tax	22	42
	87	68
Minority interests	27	12
Profit attributable to shareholders before extraordinary items	60	56
Earnings per share	9.3p	9.0p

NOTES

- Turnover includes the Group's share of the turnover of associates amounting to £955 million (1990—£1,042 million).
- Profit before tax includes profits from associates of £26 million (1990—£21 million).
- Tax charge: because of the incidence of accelerated tax allowances, the tax charge provided at the half year can only be estimated.
- Extraordinary charges — £7 million (1990—£12 million).

DIVIDEND

The Board has declared a second interim dividend of 5.00p (1990—5.00p) per share for payment on 1 October 1991 to shareholders on the Register at 8 August 1991 (9 August 1991 in South Africa). This dividend is in addition to the first interim dividend of 3.00p (1990—3.00p) per share declared on 24 January 1991 and paid on 8 April 1991. The cost of the first and second interim dividends amounts to £51 million (1990—£48 million).

Shareholders will be entitled, if they wish, to elect to receive shares credited as fully paid in lieu of the cash dividend or part thereof. The necessary communications will be sent to shareholders in August.

LONRHO

LONRHO Plc. CHEAPSIDE HOUSE, 138 CHEAPSIDE, LONDON EC2V 6BL

مكتبة العصر

TSB cleans up Hill Samuel's mess

COMMENT

If all Britain's corporate banks had fared as badly as Hill Samuel during this recession, the country's financial system would be close to the brink of collapse. No one suspected a disaster of these proportions at TSB Group. The level of bad debt provisions, at £440 million, has smashed all recent records.

Lloyds last year wrote off 2.1 per cent of its assets, thought then to be the highest in British banking history. The TSB has set aside 2.4 per cent in just six months.

A tenth of Hill Samuel's lending, or £500 million, is now impaired and, given the collapse in property values, much of it will never be recovered.

While the recession has been the catalyst for the provisions and the losses, the cause of the failure lies squarely at the feet of the management and TSB's austere chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison, admitted as much yesterday. After its expensive takeover of Hill Samuel in 1987, TSB gave the bank the encouragement and the capital to lend.

Hill Samuel duly went on a mammoth lending binge. It

increased the loan book by a third in just one quarter in 1989. Brent Walker is merely the largest in a long queue of customers who should have been turned away by any prudent lender. Hamish Donaldson, the former head of Hill Samuel, and a whole layer of the bank's management have paid for the mistakes with their jobs. But Sir Nicholas and Don McCrickard, the group chief executive, presided over the situation and cannot avoid some of the blame.

Mr McCrickard has since despatched Boston Consulting Group, his favourite team of management consultants, to Hill Samuel, to discover a remedy. Their answer makes a nonsense of the entire £777 million acquisition.

Over the next five years, Hill Samuel will trim back its lending to property, to larger companies and more highly-gearred companies. Instead it will concentrate on safe bets, the small, cash-

generative firms that every high street bank is eager to do business with. The loan book as a whole will shrink. This may be the answer for a return to profits but it contradicts the grand plan of Sir John Read, the former chairman, who instigated the takeover. Then he saw Hill Samuel as the vehicle for recycling TSB's vast rump of retail deposits into high margin corporate loans.

Now it looks as though TSB will be left with those deposits, together with an expensive niche corporate banking business. The pity is that this disaster has shadowed a real success story at the retail bank. TSB is now looked at enviously by other clearers as having the most modern and efficient operation in the high street and this is reflected in the profits. If the

banks' summer reporting season continues as it has started, it should at least add some perspective to the widespread complaints about lending to small companies.

Water profits

Wessex Water, most highly rated of the ten privatised groups with a 6.4 per cent dividend yield, has brought a fascinating end to a water results season dogged by the pay controversy now bearing down on utilities and banks. Some megaphone diplomacy from Ian Byatt, water's financial regulator, has also featured prominently.

Conditions were unexpectedly good for profits. Interest rates were high on initial cash balances and cost inflation, notably in the

depressed construction business, lagged behind the November annual RPI increases on which price limits were set, a factor which will continue *a fortiori* this year.

Dividend increases followed profits rather than the regulator's "book of numbers", ranging from 14.3 per cent at Anglian to an eyebrow-raising 18 per cent at Severn Trent. Some of the profit and dividend rises, as well as high profile diversification moves at Severn Trent and Welsh Water, proved somewhat counter-productive, however, in an industry anxious not to be a political football again.

Wessex's Nicholas Hood, who has a keen eye for changing weather, deliberately curbed an earlier dividend flourish. His diversification was the most spectacular of all; American joint venture partner Waste Management put up £63 million and ends with a 14.9 per cent stake. But the equity deal is seen as a

model by Mr Byatt. Ten different characters, though apparent on privatisation, have emerged more strongly in the changed climate after a full year in the private sector. Yorkshire and Anglian have, perhaps, been the most politically astute in making sure they fulfill their basic job well, co-operate with the regulator and avoid pitfalls. They, too, are highly rated.

North West, which faces the stiffest task of the FT-SE water groups, has made ambitious moves to build up its water engineering business but has still kept a modest profit. At the opposite end, Severn Trent and Southern are paying the price in low ratings for their swashbuckling style, which City investors fear could cause them trouble in an early price review.

Thames, once seen as the most aggressive company, has, however, undergone the sharpest change of image, curbing its final dividend, promising to absorb £200 million of extra costs and putting more emphasis on its basic task. In the maturing market for water shares, that has earned it a marked uprating.

Prospects for Paternoster brighten property gloom

FOR the fans of the neo-classical scheme to redevelop London's Paternoster Square, the news that Greycoat had made a £38.5 million pre-tax loss did not look encouraging.

The prospects for the £800 million scheme looked even bleaker, as it became clear that Greycoat's losses had been struck after it had written off the £19.6 million it has invested and spent on Paternoster Associates, the joint venture development company assembled to rebuild the Sixties-scarred site to the north of St Paul's Cathedral.

Was the Paternoster plan about to become the best-known name on a still-growing list of developments that have been postponed or cancelled because of the collapse in the value of commercial property?

"No," says Geoffrey Wilson, chairman of Greycoat, which has a one-third investment in Paternoster Associates, with the balance shared by Park Tower of America and Mitsubishi Estate of Japan. "The Paternoster scheme will be built. Our provision is simply a matter of prudent accounting."

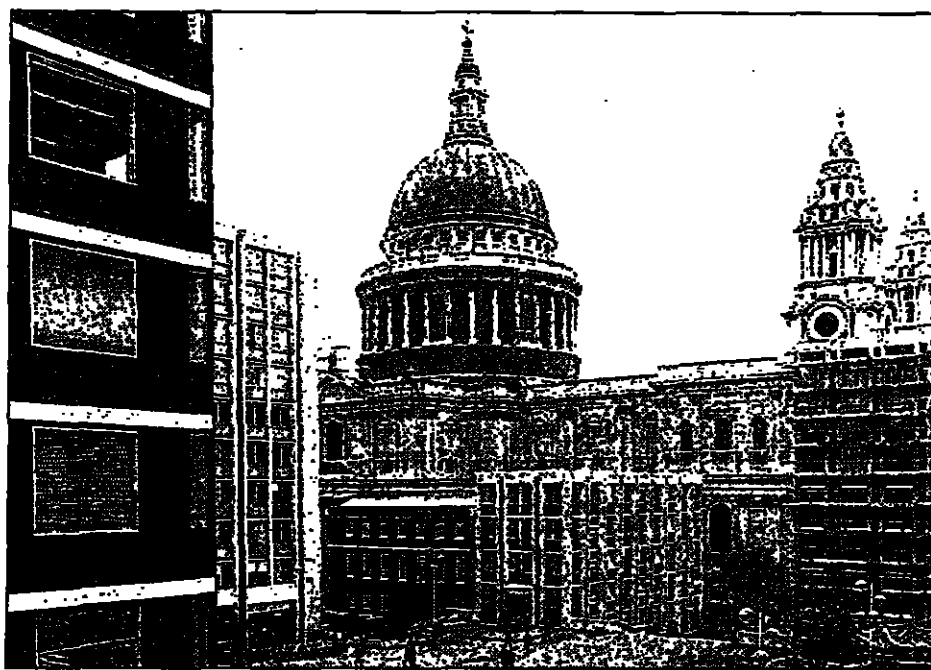
He is confident Paternoster's completion will coincide with a sustained recovery, particularly for the London office market where the economic conditions have been exacerbated by over-development. The planning application to build six new buildings, 80 shops and restaurants and a new central square could take a year to win approval. Demolition of existing buildings could then take six months, followed by a three-year construction period.

He added: "My belief is that we will be bringing Paternoster into the market at about the right time. I think 1995-6 will be a time when rent levels and yields will be significantly better than they are today."

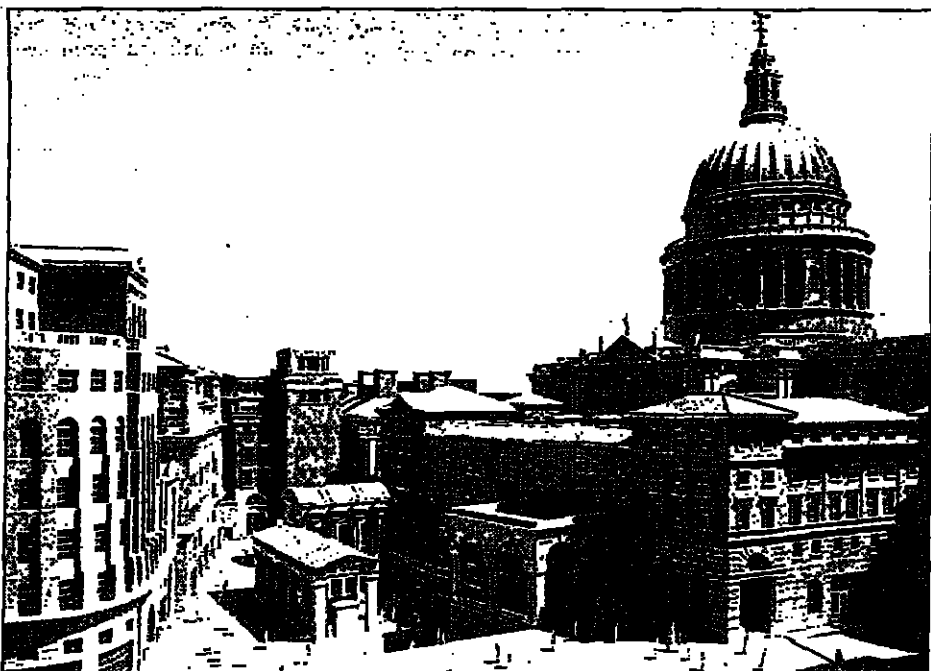
It is the prospect of such opportunities that sustains Greycoat through a commercial property slump that Mr Wilson says is worse than its 1974-5 forerunner.

High interest rates and the imbalance between the supply of newly developed property and the demand for such space have driven the sector down. In the London market, new office space is available at less than half the £45 to £55 a sq ft that prevailed a couple of years ago. With a growing proportion of existing tenants succumbing to insolvency, and the few new tenants around able to drive harder bargains, the investment buyer - a buyer of completed and let buildings - has been rare.

Selling prices have fallen, dragging down the value of properties retained by property investment companies. Selling



Ugly neighbours: St Paul's overlooks the Sixties' buildings in Paternoster Square



Shape of things to come: a model shows how the square will look after redevelopment

prices and investment values are normally calculated by the yield that the rents on a building offer to a buyer. As buyers have been deterred by the high cost of borrowing and the deteriorating prospects for rental growth, selling yields have risen sharply, dragging the more conservative version used for valuation purposes up with them.

Hillier Parker estimates that in two years, office yields have risen from 6.9 per cent to 9.3 per cent. The impact has been to wipe billions of pounds off the property sector's balance sheet. Land Securities, for example, saw the value of its investment portfolio fall £1 billion. Lesser rivals have seen virtually no work with the speed at which the market

turned from boom to near-bust surprised everyone, Mr Wilson believes. "I have yet to meet a person who foresaw how quickly values were going to fall, or to what extent."

Greycoat saw the value of its investment portfolio fall 13.4 per cent. The three office blocks it completed and let last year performed well, however, dropping in value by less than 10 per cent.

Mr Wilson is as relaxed about the art/science of valuation as a man can be after seeing shareholders' funds tumble from £683 million to £469 million. "I think it has been very difficult for valuers, who, at times, have had to work with virtually no comparables at all. Valuers have taken a very tough line, but I'm not critical of that. Property is a medium-to-long-term business. Unfortunately, for the last 25 years it has behaved as if it is a short-term business. People have got used to the idea of non-stop increases in value. Now an adjustment is taking place."

Greycoat, says Mr Wilson, will survive the adjustment to play its part in the strong recovery he expects, and needs, for Paternoster Square to be a success. But the bad news will continue for some time. "I don't think now is a time for over-optimism. Now is the time for complete realism. Sometimes you develop your building and let it at the top of the market. Other times you quietly assemble your sites and wait. Now is a time to wait."

London Electricity, chaired by John Wilson, sits somewhere in the middle. Pre-tax profits came in 23 per cent ahead of the £115.6 million forecast, at £141.8 million. Just over £20 million of the additional profits came from higher than expected demand, while £5 million was from lower than forecast electricity costs. The supply business saw an £18 million turnaround from the forecast, producing a £9.8 million profit.

Blame for the windfalls lies with the government and its advisers, for overestimating rates of inflation and for a too cautious approach to future energy costs.

The high cash flow, and the decision to hold back substantial capital investment on generation, reduced Southern's gearing by 10 percentage points from the forecast of 46 per cent. London is 26.5 per cent geared and expects to be in the low 20s by the year end. Excess profits, for political reasons, cannot be shovelled out to the shareholders. Some day soon, these companies are going to be substantially

IN A paradoxical way, the shimmering argument about executives' salaries might even be working to the advantage of the regional electricity companies. The acres of newspaper generated will be yesterday's fish and chips paper once the actual figures are known in August; but the affair has diverted attention from the enormous profit windfalls the industry is seeing.

Some might claim, although the company strenuously denies the suggestion, that Southern Electric has done its best to reduce the pre-tax line in the year to end-March. Actual historic cost profits before tax were £139.6 million, against a forecast in the prospectus of £122.7 million. But contained within these are £19 million of provisions after the Barber case for equalisation of pensions, and £14 million to restructure the retailing and contracting business. Neither were in the prospectus; the Barber costs could have been spread over 13 years, but the company has chosen a one-off hit, while it is hard to see how retailing and contracting have changed drastically since November, when the prospectus was put together.

The provisions are prudent and in line with the best accounting practice, but without them, the company would presumably have had to announce pre-tax profits the best part of £50 million above estimates drawn up just seven months ago. Well may Duncan Ross, the Southern chairman, attempt some political damage limitation by raising the prospect of price rises lower than inflation next year.

Southern did particularly well because of its aggressive stance in the supply market. Forthcoming results from companies such as Manweb, which has taken the opposite view on high-risk supply contracts, will doubtless reflect this.

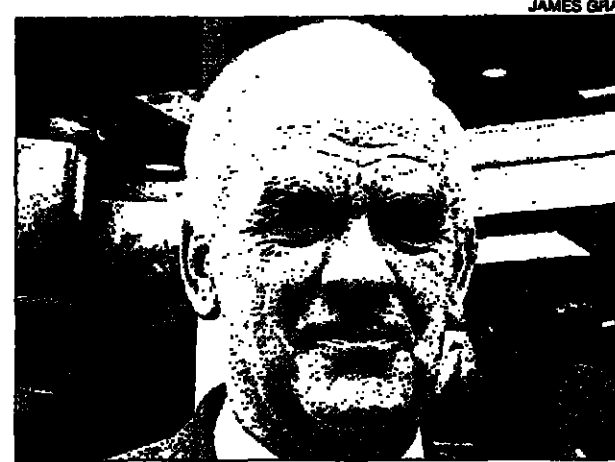
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TEMPUS

Ill wind blows to the advantage of power companies



Demand windfall: John Wilson, of London Electricity

under-borrowed and under City pressure to diversify, with all the attendant risks.

London's unit sales showed an impressive 4 per cent growth, half of that from the weather, while the rise at Southern was 4.9 per cent, with demand in the commercial sector jumping a remarkable 7.7 per cent. London offers a barely higher yield, 6.9 per cent prospective, but Southern, on 6.8 per cent and always highly regarded in the City, can be expected to outperform long term.

Scottish Power yesterday confirmed forecasts for 1990-1 drawn up a month ago. Both Scottish companies can be allowed some anger at the low

yield they were floated on; the SP shares now offer 5.6 per cent prospective, just 4p ahead of the offer price, and are going nowhere, while millions of disgruntled private investors remain locked in and waiting to take whatever profit becomes available.

BPB

A MARKET awash with building and construction paper might be forgiven for turning up its nose at BPB's request for £125.5 million, particularly since part of it is to pay this year's dividend.

There is a case however for believing that the best has

been saved until last. Not that BPB's immediate trading outlook is anything like encouraging. Almost halved profits of £69 million - if £21.8 million of exceptional are peeled out - are accompanied by a clear enough warning that the first six months of this year will be awful, and that there is little chance of any damage being repaired in the second half.

BPB's spending has mostly been done, with little recourse to its shareholders before now. Other than the £71 million vendor placing that financed the Rigips deal in 1987, no new paper has been issued during a five-year period in which the group has laid out £926 million on new plant and equipment and acquisitions. The rights issue cash will be used to bring net gearing down from 52 per cent to a 35 per cent level that the group believes it can adhere to for the foreseeable future.

Much of the spending has been in Europe, where BPB is now a whisker short of half the market, and will continue as it steps up the pace of its staged acquisition of the Spanish Inverysa, and of its investment in Germany, where demand has soared in the wake of unification.

Britain now accounts for only 36 per cent of group turnover. While problems persist at home, however, where slump rather than recession is the word that Britain's building chiefs are using to describe current conditions, BPB cannot expect to make more than £55 million this year, or 8.3p of earnings.

A commitment to a maintained 11.25p dividend on the enlarged equity guarantees a 9.8 per cent yield, which in turn should underpin the share price, and persuade waverers to take up their rights.

RICHEMONT

Compagnie Financière Richemont AG, Zug, Switzerland

Consolidated results for the year ended March 31, 1991

The Board of Directors of Compagnie Financière Richemont AG is pleased to report the consolidated results of the group for the year ended March 31, 1991.

	1991	1990
Gross sales revenue	£6,448.5 m	£5,905.3 m
Net sales revenue	£2,988.3 m	£2,861.5 m
Net profit attributable to unitholders	£177.3 m	£146.3 m
Earnings per unit	£308.70	£254.70
Dividend per unit	£50.62½	£41.25
Unitholders' funds	£1,141.0 m	£977.0 m
Net assets per unit	£1,987.10	£1,701.50

For the year ended March 31, 1991 Richemont has produced satisfactory results with good performances from both the tobacco and luxury goods interests. Net profit attributable to unitholders increased by 21.2 per cent to £177.3 million on gross sales revenues of £6,448.5 million, some 9.2 per cent higher than in the prior year.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the dividend to be paid to unitholders in respect of the year will be £50.62½ per unit.

Richemont operates in the fields of tobacco products and luxury goods. Richemont's tobacco interests are held through Rothmans International P.L.C., whose group operating companies produce a wide range of cigarettes, cigars and smoking tobaccos. Its investments in the luxury goods industry are held through its controlling interests in Cartier Monde SA, including Cartier, Piaget and Baume & Mercier, and Dunhill Holdings PLC, including Alfred Dunhill, Montblanc and Chloé.

Copies of the annual report can be obtained from the Company Secretary at the addresses listed below:

Compagnie Financière Richemont AG Weinbergstrasse 5 6300 Zug, Switzerland Telephone: (042) 21 03 64 Telefax: (042) 21 71 02	Richemont International Limited 15 Hill Street London W1X 7FB, England Telephone: (071) 499 2539 Telefax: (071) 491 0524
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

New faces and places

ANDREW Melrose, construction analyst at Warburg Securities until he was axed in a round of job-outs in February, is bouncing back. Red-headed Melrose, aged 36, joins Nomura on Monday, and has shown a remarkable flair for timing. For he left Greaveson Grant for Warburg in 1987, just as his wife gave birth to their first child, Emily. Now the couple has followed through with a son, Alasdair, who was born last week. "They seem to have planned it well," says an associate. Also on the move is Piers Harford

who has left the Bristol offices of Albert E. Sharp, the regional stockbroker.

A COUPLE from Belfast were in London for the annual



meeting of Maxwell Communication Corporation. After the formal business, Robert Maxwell came down to chat. "So you're from Ireland?" he enquired. "I'm a great friend of Charlie Haughey," they told their shares the next day.

Lost bets
JOHN Howell, who runs the East European department of Ernst & Young, was in Moscow last week. While there, he was whisked off to a launch reception for the Casino Royale. Sadly, the evening was rather muted. For E&Y, which was the first foreign firm of accountants to set up in Moscow, is acting as audi-

tor to the casino, and staff are forbidden from taking a punt. Closer to home, a Mori survey confirms what we all thought: accountants are boring. Nearly a third of senior managers in the Broadgate Poll agreed they were boring, but, typically, 17 per cent of could not decide either way.

Missing Milan
IN THESE times of savage job cuts, Kidder Peabody, a Wall Street firm, has done little to lift morale in its Italian office. Executives were horrified to find Milan missing from the list of international locations in Kidder's annual report. An embarrassed Kidder official in

New York says it was a mistake, and not a way of announcing further cuts.

Rat race
NOMURA clocked up another victory on Wednesday when it won the Rat Race, a charity romp through the Square Mile. A team led by Ayesha Shah, an executive director on the swaps team, took just over an hour to complete the course, using a London taxi disguised as a rat. Clifford Chance managed second place followed by Network SouthEast. Dewe Rogers helped organise the event with Children in Cities.

JON ASHWORTH

Tate speaks for 45% of Bundaberg

TATE and Lyle has raised its stake in Bundaberg Sugar, of Queensland, to 45 per cent after receiving further acceptance for its Aus\$4.10 (£1.92) a share offer.

The British sweeteners group had said the offer would lapse if it did not receive 50 per cent acceptance by today but indicated yesterday that it may be prepared to reconsider.

Camellia slips

Profits at Camellia Investments, the tea plantation and historical manuscript owner, slipped by a quarter to £20.4 million in the year to end-December after a 21 per cent fall in turnover to £181 million. The dividend for the year rises by 2p to 23p.

Fairey sells

Fairey Group, the specialised engineering company, is selling its property at Heston, west London, to General Accident for £9 million. The written down value of the asset is £4.3 million but the impact on earnings will be "neutral".

Rothmans lifts profit and increases payout

By OUR CITY STAFF

ROTHMANS International, the tobacco to luxury goods group, has overcome the effects of the Gulf war and the recession to increase its pre-tax profits by £58 million, taking them from £484.5 million up to £542.5 million.

After a lower tax charge and a fall in minority interests after last October's mopping up of the outstanding share in PJ Carroll, earnings have surged 21.9 per cent to 78.5p a share.

The board is lifting the final dividend on the ordinary and B shares from 9.2p to 11.7p, making a total of 18.5p for the year, a rise of 20 per cent.

The pre-tax figure would have been £28 million higher but for the strengthening of sterling against the dollar during the year, but since most was attributable to the minority interests, the adverse effect on attributable profits was only £4 million.

Lord Swaythling, the executive chairman, said tobacco



Swaythling: profits leap

profits had increased 8 per cent to £351.5 million, while sales advanced 7 per cent from last year.

The improvement in margins was achieved in spite of additional spending in eastern European and northeast Asian

markets. Sales of luxury products, which primarily represent the controlling interest in Dunhill Holdings, dipped 8 per cent.

Profits, however, leapt from £49.4 million to £55.1 million, a performance Lord Swaythling attributes to improved efficiencies and productivity gains.

Associates brought in £77 million against £65.3 million, the bulk of it from the 17 per cent stake in Cartier Monde, whose 17 per cent increase was whittled down to 3 per cent at £71.4 million on translation into sterling.

Rothmans' other activities ran up a £6.4 million loss. They reflected the £7.6 million cost of withdrawing from confectionery distribution in Australia.

Cash holdings improved by £12 million to £714 million, split almost equally between Rothmans International and the group's partly owned companies.

T&N to control Osinek

By OUR CITY STAFF

T&N, the British engineering group, is to take a controlling stake in Osinek, the Czechoslovakian manufacturer of friction materials for the automotive, rail and industrial sectors, by subscribing for new shares. The cost of the transaction has not been disclosed.

The investment follows a provisional agreement with the Prague government, which will retain a minority holding.

T&N will help finance the reorganisation and upgrading of Osinek's plant and equipment, increasing capacity and expanding product range. T&N will also give marketing, financial and technical help.

Osinek, which is the only domestic producer of friction materials, provides 80 to 90 per cent of the local market for textile products in areas such as heat sealing and industrial belting. It was converted to a joint stock company last December.

The new board will include representatives of T&N and the government. Talks on terms continue.

Ex-Lands to raise further £4.9m for German projects

By MATTHEW BOND

EX-LANDS, the golf and leisure company, is asking shareholders for more money less than 14 months after raising £8 million through a rights issue.

Now guided by Graham and Robert Bourne, Ex-Lands is seeking £4.9 million through a one-for-three rights issue at 31p. Last year's rights was a one-for-one at 33p. The latest issue has been fully underwritten by Smith New Court.

Most of the new money will pay for the development of Ex-Lands' two golf-related ventures in Germany, at Hamburg and Stuttgart. A smaller proportion will fund work at the company's French development at Vichy, where a 25 per cent interest was acquired last year with the proceeds of the first rights issue.

The German and French developments are being carried out jointly with Mark McCormack's International

Management Group. IMG paid 40p a share recently to acquire a 1.5 per cent stake in Ex-Lands and has an option to raise that to 2 per cent before July 31. The money raised through IMG's subscription for new shares will be used to pay for Ex-Lands' increased investment in Vichy which, under an agreement signed last month, could rise to 50 per cent.

Ex-Lands' move into golf came after the Bourne brothers, who together built up the Local London business centre group, bought half of a 27 per cent stake Charles and Maurice Saatchi owned in Ex-Lands.

The Saatchis have retained a 10.1 per cent stake in the company, matching the stake now owned by the Bourne. Both the Bourne and the Saatchis have given irrevocable undertakings to take up their rights.

Directors cut pay after fall

By OUR CITY STAFF

DIRECTORS of Beckenham Group, the heating engineer and tool distributor, are taking pay cuts after pre-tax profits fell from £2.86 million to £746,000 in the six months to the end of April.

Earnings slumped from 4p a share to 1p and the interim dividend is being reduced from 1.5p a share to 0.5p. The company gave warning that trading conditions remained difficult. Beckenham shares fell from 29p to 23p.

Christopher Egleton, the chairman, said directors' remuneration was being reduced as part of a programme to reduce costs by £500,000. Mr Egleton and Harry Westropp, the managing director, have agreed to take pay cuts, while Barry Garmann, the corporate finance director, will work part-time.

Peter Legge is stepping down from the board but will continue to run the manufacturing division. Bill Cox is retiring and will not be replaced immediately.

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You must have at least 5 years experience in an advertising/PR agency or as a technical/business journalist. Computer literacy is essential.

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STRATEGY

28, avenue van Becelaere (box 8)
B-1170 Brussels - Belgium



The Geoteam Group of companies are primarily involved in geophysical data acquisition, navigation, seismic data processing and interpretation. Activities are both onshore and offshore, with the main clients being the major oil companies. Offices are located in Oslo, Houston, Singapore, Great Yarmouth and Aberdeen.

Geoteam Exploration Ltd. A/S and its affiliated company in the U.S. are presently expanding into 3D marine seismic exploration. The first high technology 3D survey vessel, Geo Explorer, has recently been commissioned. This expansion has created vacancies for the following positions onboard the vessels:

Party Chiefs - Applicants should have a minimum of 4 years experience within the seismic industry. Previous experience in this position is preferred.

Navigation Field Service Engineers
Instrumentation Field Service Engineers

Chief Observers

Chief Navigators

Chief Airgun Mechanics

Applicants for the above positions should have a minimum of 3 years experience within the seismic industry. Previous experience in the position being applied for is preferred.

Trainee Navigators and Observers

Applicants should have a B.Sc. or equivalent in electronics, computer science, geodesy or in a related discipline. No additional experience is necessary.

Vacancies are available for all the above positions for both Geoteam Exploration in Oslo, and its affiliated company in Houston, Texas. Successful candidates will be offered challenging opportunities and the chance to grow in a young, dynamic company. Conditions will include competitive salaries and leave schedules, along with a generous benefit plan.

Interested candidates should write and send their curriculum vitae to Geoteam Exploration before July 10th 1991. All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

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P.O. BOX 52, Øvre Ullern

0311 Oslo 3, Norway.

EUROCONTROL

The European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation seeks for its Headquarters in Brussels a (1/m)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (ref: CA/134)

for the Director Personnel and Finance.

Requirements: ♦ sound experience as a senior secretary, preferably in an international organisation; ♦ familiarity with the use of a PC for word processing is necessary.

Age: between 30 and 40 years.

Languages: applicants must be fluent in either English or French and have a good working knowledge of the other language. Knowledge of other languages would be an advantage.

An attractive salary is offered and appointment confers European civil servant status.

Application forms and further details can be obtained from:

EUROCONTROL, Personnel Division,

rue de la Loi 72, B-1040 Brussels.

Completed forms should be returned to the above address, quoting the above reference, before 5 August 1991.

RMIT Professor and Dean, Faculty of Art

Salary: A\$67,812 plus allow.
(Ref No 150-01-A)

Applications are invited for the position of Professor and Dean, Faculty of Art.

The Faculty of Art offers undergraduate programs in Fine Art, Visual Communication, Industrial Design, Illustration, Photography, Scientific Photography, Fashion and Textile Design. The Faculty also offers Honours programs, and Master Degree programs by thesis, project or coursework. PhD's are also offered.

The Faculty of Art at RMIT is a major art institution in Australia based in the centre of Melbourne with a current enrolment of 1196 student equivalents.

The Dean is part of the senior management team of the university. The appointee will be expected to provide professional and academic leadership of the Faculty of Art. A formal qualification in an appropriate discipline is required. Demonstrated professional abilities and management skills are essential. Teaching experience at tertiary level is highly desirable.

The successful candidate will be accorded the title of Professor.

Salary: A\$67,812 at Head of School 1 level, plus allowances. Academic salaries are currently under review.

For further information contact Dr David Wilmoth, Associate Director (Higher Education), telephone: (03) 660 2002 (for overseas: 61-3-660-2002).

A position description may be obtained from Human Resources Management Group, by phoning (03) 660 4600 or fax (03) 663 4453. Applications in writing and quoting Reference Number, should be addressed to Senior Appointments Officer by Friday 16th August, 1991.

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The remuneration package for all positions includes use of a car and accommodation. Age range preferred 24 - 35. Please fax or send a full CV (including daytime and home telephone nos.) and photograph to the address below.

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Technical Adviser Marine Fuel Technology

VERITAS PETROLEUM SERVICES is the world leader in marine-fuel quality auditing. Due to continued growth, we will soon be

opening a fuel-testing laboratory and technical service centre in Rotterdam.

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Qualifications

The successful candidate will have in-depth knowledge and experience of marine fuels, fuel-treatment plans and diesel engine operation.

Applicants should also be confident self-starters, with good communicative skills, fluent in spoken and written English, with a good command of German and working knowledge of French.

Responsibility

The Technical Adviser will be responsible for evaluating and reporting on fuel-analysis results, and providing shipowners with technical assistance in respect of fuel treatment and optimum engine performance.

Training

It is anticipated that the appointed candidate will commence employment in September this year and undergo training in another VSP laboratory prior to taking up the permanent position in Rotterdam.

Remuneration Package

Salary according to qualifications and experience.

The benefits are those you would expect from a first-class employer.

Please apply with full CV to:



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Mr C Fisher
Veritas Petroleum Services (UK)
Veritas House, 112 Station Road
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Cautious steps on the road to democracy

Roh Tae Woo, South Korea's first democratically elected president, has become accustomed to annual springtime demands for his resignation, and this year the student demonstrations were particularly violent, leading to several deaths. He is, however, entitled to be optimistic about completing his term in early 1993.

After three decades of authoritarian regimes, military coups and political assassinations, Mr Roh is steering his country through a tumultuous transitional period along the path towards democracy. Weighing up his three and a half years in office to date, many already cite his greatest achievement as being the avoidance of a serious incident that could, until only two years ago, have sent the nation reeling back to a military dictatorship.

Caution is still Mr Roh's watchword. Ignoring his detractors, who call him a "lame duck", he has picked his way along a central path, taking care not to antagonise the still numerous fanatics to his left and right.

His gradualist policy seems to be working. Mr Roh has carried out enough of his promises to maintain stability, while scoring some notable international diplomatic advances for South Korea and presiding over an economy that is expected to grow at a rate of between 9 and 10 per cent this year, making it the envy of most of Asia.

The greatest challenges for Mr Roh have been in domestic politics. This year's annual student demonstrations have been more violent and more desperate than any since 1987.

A spate of suicides by radicals calling for the downfall of Mr Roh shocked the country, however, and alienated the masses from the students, who had always been regarded as the "conscience of the nation". Most South



After decades of upheaval, a new era is dawning in South Korea.

Joanna Pitman
outlines how

President Roh Tae Woo (above) has ignored detractors and picked his way along a central path

Koreans consider themselves middle-class, and are fully committed to stability and law and order.

Although they abhor the violent tactics of the radicals, they do not show great support for Mr Roh, however. The popularity of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), formed last year in a merger between Mr Roh's Democratic Justice Party and two opposition groups, has slipped to less than 20 per cent in most polls this year. A Korea Gallup poll showed that 60 per cent have no political allegiance at all.

Roh's intensive agenda of political democratisation easy. The agenda is dominated by the reintroduction, after a 30 year lapse, of local autonomy, and South Korea has already had two sets of local elections this year. The government is committed to holding national assembly elections by April 1992, and elections for mayors and provincial governors by the following June, before ending the year with the presidential election, probably in December.

The intensive electioneering schedule has exposed the immaturity of Korean politics. The most recent elections, held for city councils and provincial seats last week, swept the DLP to victory, but emphasised that regionalism still dominates the political scene. The main opposition party, the New Democratic Party (NDP), headed by Kim Dae Jung, the veteran politician, showed again that it was strong in the southwest but could make little headway elsewhere.

Mud-slinging and charges of corruption colour every election, and public distrust of politicians has kept voter turn-out low. Political indifference is proving the biggest obstacle to change.

Lee Dong-bok, special assistant to the prime minister, says: "I fear that the development of political maturity will take much longer than we expected. Politics is still in turmoil." Na Jong-il, the dean of the graduate school at Kyonghee university, adds: "We still revel too much in the theatrical side."

The past year has certainly seen some dramatic recasting of personalities in the government. Ministers have left office in the wake of scandals, and last month, in response to the weeks of street demonstrations, the prime minister, Robert B. Tai Bong, resigned after only five months in office, to be succeeded by Chung Woon Shik. No present cabinet



member held his position before 1990.

With every step towards fully-fledged democracy has come a louder articulation of demands for more social and political reforms, a heightening of tensions and more insecurity following the rapid pace of change.

The typical South Korean is less concerned with election pledges than with rising inflation, prohibitive housing costs, environmental problems, a growing crime rate and corruption scandals.

He is also, however, more affluent and more free than his parents were. The national

security act, a relic of totalitarian days, has been revised, and civil liberties are better respected. The press has a good degree of freedom.

The vicissitudes of South Korean politics should be viewed against the backdrop of the country's main asset, its robust economy.

After several years of shrinking exports, which had been eroded by rising labour costs and adverse exchange rates, the economy is showing signs of rejuvenation. Government research institutes are

per cent to between 9 and 10 per cent.

Mr Roh has perhaps been most successful on the international scene, with his "northern policy". Capitalising on East-West détente, he has pursued fast-track negotiations with two of North Korea's traditional allies.

He has met Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet president, three times in ten months, and last September agreed to open diplomatic relations with Moscow.

South Korea has also developed closer relations with

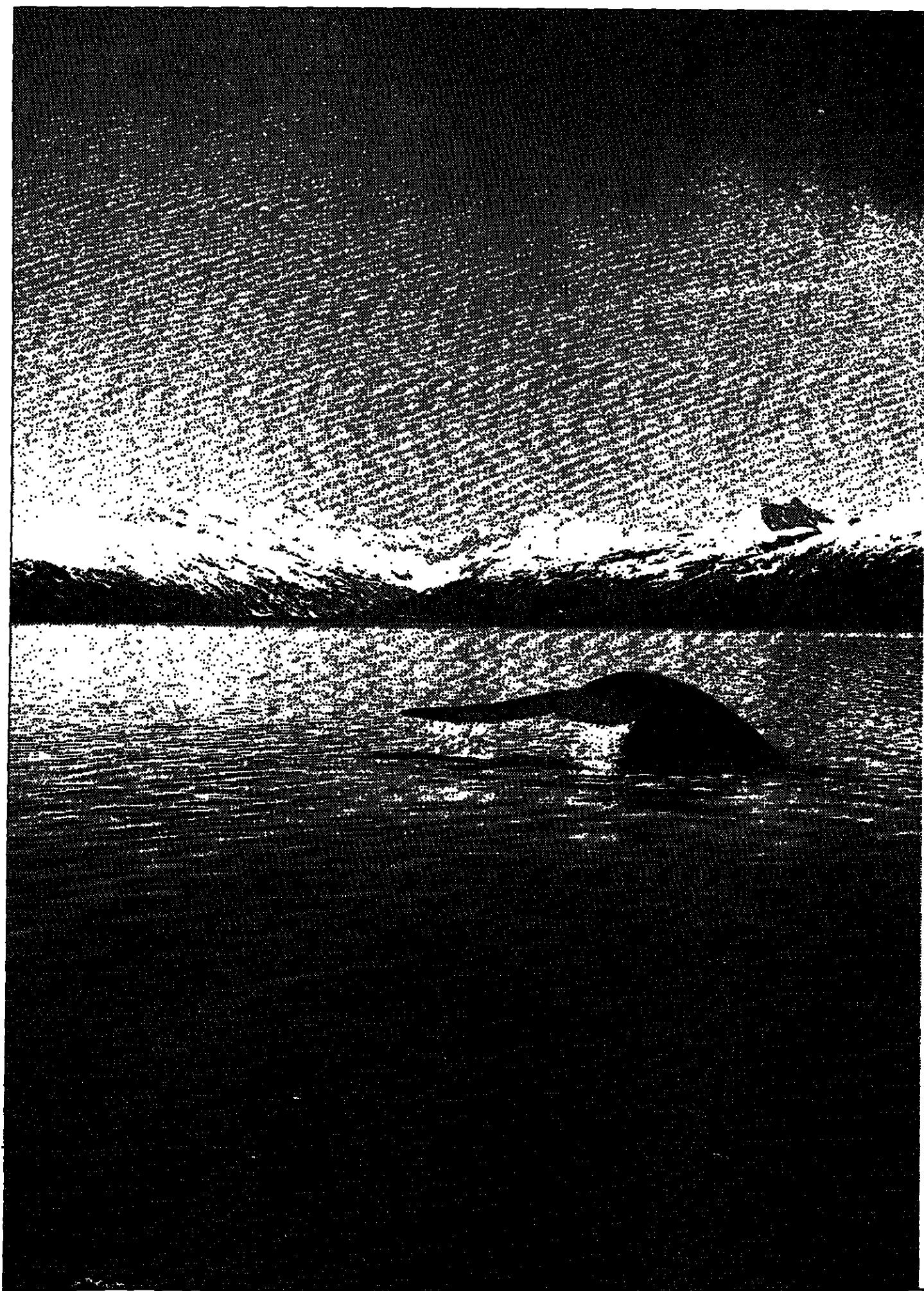
China, particularly in trade, and has now virtually assured itself of a seat in the United Nations later this year.

The most striking result of this has been the stark policy reversal of the severely isolationist regime in Pyongyang, which had maintained that the two Koreas should share a seat at the UN. North Korea abandoned this position in May, announcing its intention to submit its own application.

Mr Roh's ultimate goal is an easing of tensions between the two Koreas, which are still divided by a heavily militarised border, the last Cold War demarcation line still intact.

Most South Korean parliamentarians, however, are sober about the prospects of unification, having witnessed the German experience. The most optimistic speak of a decade before possible unification; others of two or three. Until then, Mr Roh has to persevere with patience in his struggles towards political and social change, while keeping the expectations of the people in check.

Many criticise him as a directionless leader, lacking drive, but his gradualist, almost colourless approach may turn out to be his greatest gift to South Korea.



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Trading links with the Soviet Union and China have been made possible by a booming economy. Brian Bridges reviews the new foreign policy

Hands stretch out to Moscow

The centrepiece of the sixth floor of the Lotte department store in Seoul last April was a stand selling 6in dolls of Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet president himself was talking at the time to President Roh Tae Woo on Cheju island, the southernmost point of South Korea, while Mrs Gorbachev was wandering around the island's shops buying "instant noodles" to take back to Moscow.

For South Korea, which has made anti-communism its article of faith for more than four decades, the scenes were evidence of diplomatic success, and a measure of the changes that have taken place on the Korean peninsula, which has seemed frozen in the old Cold War mould since the Korean war of 1950-53.

Another sign is the virtual certainty that both South and North Korea will be admitted to the United Nations this autumn. Seoul had announced it would apply, and as first the Russians and then the Chinese made it clear they would not veto the application, North Korea was forced to follow suit, abandoning its long-held position that there should be only one Korean seat.

At home, Mr Roh has had economic and political problems, but he has found compensation during the past year in a remarkable extension to his "northern diplomacy",

intended to bridge the gap with North Korea. The rationale was that developing economic and political contacts with the socialist allies of North Korea would push the North into a more positive mode. Mr Roh achieved his most dramatic breakthrough with the Soviet Union. In June 1990 he flew to San Francisco for an unprecedented meeting with Mr Gorbachev. Three months

Gorbachev has switched from giving help to the North to receiving it from the South

later diplomatic relations were established. In April Mr Gorbachev was the first president of the Soviet Union to visit either part of Korea, and it was much to the chagrin of Kim Il-sung, the North's authoritarian leader, that he chose his newest capitalist friend, South Korea, over his old communist ally in the North.

As the Soviet Union's economic problems have mounted, Mr Gorbachev's interest has switched from acting as a

provider of aid to ailing North Korea to being a recipient of aid, trade and investment from the South. North Korea's other main ally, China, has been more cautious, but not immune to Mr Roh's diplomatic offensive. Despite the Chinese leadership's reluctance to annoy Mr Kim, its ideological soul-mate, by copying the Soviet recognition, Chinese pragmatism has led not only to the development of a lively trade, and an exchange of trade offices, with South Korea but, more significantly, to subtle pressure on North Korea to accept the changing realities of northeast Asia.

Seoul's dialogue with North Korea itself has lagged well behind. Nevertheless, the two sides are edging warily towards each other. An unprecedented series of three meetings was held between the prime ministers of the two Koreas last winter, low-level indirect trade has begun - and a joint table tennis team won the world championships.

North Korea made a dramatic about-turn in applying for separate membership of the UN, and it has agreed under pressure to discuss the inspection of its nuclear facilities with the International Atomic Energy Authority. These changes of policy are driven primarily by Pyongyang's ideological isolation and economic stagnation. Mr



A toast to good relations: Mikhail Gorbachev and Roh Tae Woo confirm trade and diplomatic links as the one-time enemy nations become allies

Kim has had to temper his much vaunted self-sufficiency in the hope of obtaining economic assistance from the West and, above all, from Japan.

He is trying to sell dearly his only bargaining card - the threat to build nuclear weapons - but his new flexibility so far extends mainly to attempting to improve relations with Japan and the United States. Until Pyongyang begins a substantial dialogue with the South, the Roh government will continue to view the North with suspicion.

The US, despite its continued criticism of South Korean economic practices and its

stated intention to phase down its military commitment, is clearly still deeply concerned about stability on the peninsula, and in its North Korean policy is unlikely to move too far ahead of South Korean tolerance.

The South Koreans feel more suspicious of Japanese intentions. The legacy of history, and of Japanese domination, complicates present differences of views. The normalisation of Japan-North Korean relations is likely to worsen Japan-South Korean relations in the short term. However, in the longer term, the Japanese involvement in North Korea can only bring

change to that society, pushing it closer to the South.

Mr Roh told his cabinet last week that reunification of the peninsula was possible by the mid Nineties, or by 2000 at the latest. North Korea is deeply suspicious, however, of German-style "unification by absorption", and South Korea has made a sober appreciation of the economic and socio-political costs of Germany's rapid reunification, compared with the initial euphoria after the Berlin Wall came down. That suggests that later rather than sooner is still the best bet.

● The author is an associate fellow of the Royal Institute of International Affairs



Exporting Korean know-how and expertise: the Daewoo electronics factory in Northern Ireland

Growth with a little fear

How much longer can the economy sustain its 30 year expansion rate?

Another year of 9 per cent real growth in gross national product is expected in the South Korean economy, but both Koreans and foreigners are fretting about the side-effects of growth and are asking whether it can continue. In other words, 1991 is just like every other year since 1961.

Every year there is the same question and the same sense of crisis. When an economy grows at a yearly average of 8.4 per cent for 30 years, every year is described as a year of transition.

The average for the past six years has been 10.1 per cent. This has left some problems, because the government plans for 7 to 7.5 per cent and then retroactively adjusts upwards. The result is that some infrastructural investment is trailing behind. Ports, highways and electricity generation facilities are all being constructed at breakneck speed, and there is serious concern about the reserve generating capacity during the summer peak.

This pace of public investment both accelerates growth

further and releases money, which drives up prices.

South Korea suffers much from comparison with Japan. Unlike Japan, it has no long history of trade surpluses, and in the recent acceleration imports have outstripped exports. Yet both the United States and now the European Community are trying to pressure South Korea as though it were indeed a little Japan.

Seoul has responded with gradual liberalisations. It has reduced import tariffs, permitting the import of previously banned agricultural items, notably bananas; will allow foreign companies to enter the retail market next month; and finally, at a date to be announced, but probably in January 1992, will open the capital market to foreign investors and foreign security companies.

The main issues are seen by Koreans themselves as rising prices and a general feeling that the economy is out of control. Officially, consumer prices rose by almost 10 per cent in 1990, and a higher rise is feared in 1991.

These fears seem to be exaggerated. The main element in inflation - rocketing housing prices, which are not well reflected in the price index - appears to be showing a slight fall, as the huge number of houses and flats built in the last 18 months affects the market.

The feeling of many that the economy is out of control is

believe the projections for growth coming from their Seoul offices.

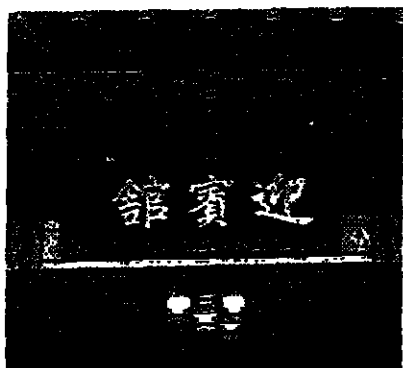
As a general rule, foreign business in South Korea is now restructuring its operation from producing for export to producing or importing for the domestic market. A new wave of investment, however, is beginning with a view to supplying components to South Korea, or for production aimed at Japan or China. South Korea sees one of its

main advantages as its geographical position, between a booming China, also growing at 10 per cent a year, and a mature, rich and expensive Japan. Dependence on exports to the US has dropped from 40 per cent in 1986 to about 28 per cent in 1991, and to Europe from 15-16 per cent to 11 per cent.

Asia is now absorbing 50-55 per cent of South Korea's exports, and Asia is booming, while the West is just coming out of the recession.

TONY MICHELL
● The author is the managing director of the East Asian Business Consultancy

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Consumerism worries people, but it is always somebody else's consumption

less easy to counter. The argument goes that a growth rate of more than 8 per cent causes overheating. However, as it was only in 1988 that many foreign and Korean experts believed the rapid increase in wages in 1987-88 would cause widespread unemployment, the only sure thing about South Korea is that its economy will keep growing, and this year's burning issue will be forgotten within two years.

South Koreans are in two minds about the growth. There is concern about the growth of consumerism, but it is always somebody else's consumption that is blamed. Moreover, as incomes rise rapidly, yesterday's unnecessary extravagance becomes today's necessity, whether it is cars or video cameras.

Among foreign businessmen in Seoul there are two camps. Foreign investment has fallen for two years, and for many this confirms the opinion that there are problems in the economy. For others, the main problem is not in Korea, but in head offices in Europe and the United States that do not

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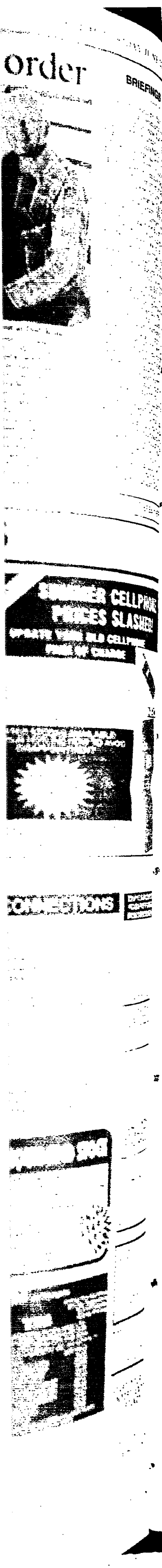


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Court of Appeal

Duty of prosecution experts to make full disclosure

Regina v Maguire and Others
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice McCowan
[Judgment June 26]

Failure by a prosecution expert witness to disclose the results of certain tests was capable of constituting a material irregularity in the course of a trial, even though prosecuting counsel was unaware of the existence of those results.

Further, the Court of Appeal held that the Crown's failure to disclose the results of certain tests was capable of constituting a material irregularity in the course of a trial, even though prosecuting counsel was unaware of the existence of those results.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeals and quashing the convictions of Anne Maguire, Patrick Joseph Maguire, Patrick Conlon, William Smyth, Vincent Maguire, Patrick Joseph Maguire and Patrick O'Neill.

All the appellants had been convicted of knowingly having in their possession or under their control an explosive substance, namely nitro-glycerine, under such circumstances as to give rise to a reasonable sus-

picion that they did not have it in their possession or control for a lawful object.

The appeals were allowed on the ground that the convictions were unsafe and unsatisfactory because the possibility of innocent contamination of the appellants' hands could not be excluded.

The appeals followed a reference to the court by the Home Secretary pursuant to section 17(1)(a) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968.

Section 17 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 provides: "(1) Where a person has been convicted on indictment... (a) if the whole case to the Court of Appeal and the case shall then be treated for all purposes as an appeal to the court by that person...".

Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, Mr Michael Cousins and Mr Anthony Clover for all the appellants except Mr Conlon; Mr Patrick O'Connor for Mr Conlon; Mr Neil Butterfield, QC, Mr H. Jonathan Barnes and Mr Martin Edmunds for the prosecution.

THEIR LORDSHIPS, giving the judgment of the court, said

that the appellants had argued that the failure of the prosecution to inform the defence of three tests carried out by forensic scientists who were prosecution expert witnesses which were relevant to the defence case constituted a material irregularity in the course of the trial.

Neither prosecuting counsel nor those instructing them knew of the tests. The question, in considering the prosecution's duty of disclosure, therefore was who was embraced by the word "prosecution"?

The court was of the opinion that a forensic scientist who was an adviser to the prosecuting authority was under a duty to disclose material of which he knew and which might have some bearing on the offence charged and the surrounding circumstances of the case.

The disclosure would be to the authority which retained him and which must in turn, subject to sensitivity, disclose the information to the defence.

There was no cause to distinguish between members of the prosecuting authority and those advising it in the capacity of a forensic scientist.

Such a distinction could involve difficult and contested enquiries as to where knowledge stopped, but most important, would be entirely counter to the desirability of amending the disparity of scientific resources as between the Crown and the subject.

One of the appellants, Mr Conlon, had died while still serving his sentence. Whether the court had power to consider his case depended on the construction of section 17(1)(a) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968.

The opening words of that subsection suggested that the case of a deceased could be referred to the court and after referral it was to be treated as an appeal by that person. That followed from the use of the word "then".

The appeal was to be treated as if he were not actually alive, a concept that presented no real difficulty for the Criminal Appeal Rules (SI 1968 No 1262).

It would be an anomalous position if the convictions of the five appellants were to be quashed but that of Mr Conlon could not be.

The practical difference was unlikely to be significant since it

was probable that if the other appellants' convictions were quashed a pardon would be granted to Mr Conlon.

However, a pardon did not have the same effect as quashing a conviction; it merely relieved the pardoned defendant from serving the term of imprisonment or the burden of any fine or financial penalty. The conviction remained.

Further, if the facts warranted it, personal representatives could bring a claim for ma-

licious prosecution if the conviction was quashed but they would be unable to do so if the deceased was pardoned.

The court had concluded that there was no compelling reason why the concluding words of section 17(1)(a) should cut down the wide words of the rest of the subsection so as to confine such references to the cases of living persons.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Southwark; George E. Baker & Co, Guildford; DPP.

Apportioning costs

Regina v Ronson

In criminal proceedings, if prosecution costs were ordered against several defendants, it was not right, if one or more had insufficient means to pay, that their share should be divided among the others who were able to pay. The total costs should be divided by the number of defendants and each defendant should pay only his share.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Goff and Lord Justice Owen) so held on June 14, in allowing an appeal by Gerald Maurice Ronson against an order to pay £440,000 towards prosecution

costs made in August 1990 at the Central Criminal Court sitting at Southwark.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the court did not think it right merely because one of the defendants was without means that the other defendants should have to pay his share of the costs of the prosecution.

The right way to approach the matter was to divide the total costs by four, as there were four defendants in the case, rather than between the three who were able to pay. Each defendant who could pay would then be liable only for his own share of one quarter of the costs.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Damage to wheel clamp unlawful

Lloyd v Director of Public Prosecutions
Before Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Judge
[Judgment June 20]

A motorist who parked without permission in a private car park which had clear warnings that unauthorised vehicles would be wheel clamped consented to the risk of his car being clamped and had no lawful excuse for damaging the clamp.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held dismissing Mr Roger Lloyd's appeal by way of case stated against the decision of Southampton Justices to convict him of criminal damage after he cut the clamp locks instead of paying a £25 penalty for its release.

Mr Jonathan Sharp for the defendant; Mr Andrew Collins, QC, for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE NOLAN said that the defendant had argued that he had a lawful excuse for removing the clamp because the clamping was a trespass to his car. The car park owners had taken unlawful pos-

session of his car and he was entitled to take reasonable steps to recover his property.

Such an argument was untenable. As a general rule, if a motorist parked his car without permission on another person's property, knowing that by doing so he risked being clamped, he had no right to damage or destroy that clamp.

The court was not deciding whether clamping in such circumstances was lawful. That was a matter for Parliament or a civil court.

At the worst the defendant had suffered a civil wrong. The remedy for such a wrong was available in the civil courts. Self-help involving the use of force could only be contemplated when there was no reasonable alternative.

There was an alternative here. He could have paid the penalty under protest and then taken a civil action against the private security firm for the recovery of that penalty.

Mr Justice Judge agreed. Solicitors: Allens, Portsmouth; CFS, Southampton.

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American looks as radiant as a wedding cake in his silly three-tiered outfit

Agassi struggles to fulfil potential

By SIMON BARNES

YESTERDAY Andre Agassi took off his trousers on centre court. I was there, children, I was there. He turned to meet his public, smiling, looking radiant as a young bride in his virginal white. To be more accurate, he looked radiant as a young wedding cake, in this silly three-tiered outfit: baggy shirt, baggy shorts, baggy trousers. What a joke all this is. We had four days to relish the anticipation. Even when Agassi finally made his appearance on court, he played it theatrically coy, wearing white track suit, and a white Woodstock generation headband. He had dressed it perfectly for himself.

After that we had the striptease. The removal of the trousers won him the biggest cheer of Wimbledon so far. Then he started playing tennis extremely badly. All this nonsensical anticipation is not exactly calculated to bring out the best in a chap's game. Selling image and sports clothes is one thing, playing tennis is another.

People have always tried to personify sporting uniforms: Douglas Jardine in his Harlequin cap, George Best with his untucked shirt, Gussie Moran at Wimbledon. Agassi, the pseudo-rebel, is simply earning his bucks as a clothes-horse by acting as the Gussie Moran of our days.

I have no particular worries about the outfit, but poor Agassi did seem as swamped by his clothes as he seemed overwhelmed by the occasion. He looked like a little lad



borrowing his big brother's kit: and as vulnerable. And after he had lost the first set, with his timing woefully aghast, one felt as sorry for him as one did for Boy George brought low.

It was the story of the emperor and his new suit of clothes — but the clothes had no emperor.

It was not until the second set began that Agassi started to play tennis. Oddly enough, there is quite a tennis player inside that silly suit — a pity his advisers give tennis such a low priority. His blue-movie sound effects reached a new pitch of intensity, he found his range, he attacked the service phenomenally early, and won five successive games, breaking serve twice. He looked as if he had learnt volleying from scratch yesterday, and learnt it rather well.

Tennis is, above all, a game that rewards the perfectly competitive mental approach and the overwhelmingly positive surge of emotion. Agassi has lost three grand slam finals and he lost his first set at Wimbledon yesterday because he often lacks both these things. He has made his fortune and worn some unusual clothes, but he has not fulfilled his potential as an athlete.

That is his choice: he is as welcome to his own priorities as he is welcome to his silly trousers. But it seems a pity, all the same. The trousers and the priorities both.



Dressed for the occasion: Agassi shows off his outfit on the centre court at Wimbledon yesterday

Tall story of qualified success

THIS is quite a Wimbledon for no-hoppers who had every reason to believe that their active interest in the singles would expire on the first day. Most of them are still there on the fifth day. They have yet to play — or yet to finish — their first-round matches. The tennis has often interrupted the rain, but seldom for long. Many no-hoppers will go home and claim with pride: "I didn't expect much but I lasted five days" (for six, maybe seven — check the weather forecast).

During yesterday afternoon's rain, 15 of the 16 qualifiers for the men's singles were still dreaming of glory: with some cause, because they had played and won their matches to get into the draw and, consequently, were sharper (if gradually rusting) than some of their opponents. Among those qualifiers was a Brazilian called Danilo Marcelino, aged 25, who was poised for a long time on the wrong end of the score in his

suspended match with the United States champion, Pete Sampras. Marcelino never had a chance to get on to the right end. Sampras beat him 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

There is 6ft 4in of Marcelino, which means that he has to bend a long way when the ball is not bouncing. He is essentially a baseliner, but plays respectable doubles; so his wayward volleying may improve.

In the qualifying competition he won one set 17-15 and two others in tie-breaks, which suggests reserves of competitive fortitude, or what the Boy Scouts used to call stickability. It would be gratifying to have a Brazilian achieving a measure of prominence again. That has not happened at Wimbledon since Thomas Koch reached the quarter-finals in 1967, the last season

before the introduction of open competition. Koch was better known as a languid and durable clay-court specialist who could pack a lifetime of hope and frustration into one match (sometimes, one point).

In Rome, for example, he used to take it for granted that whatever was happening, Koch would be playing someone, somewhere. Sampras has Greek blood and is 19 years and 10 months old. Like the early edition of Boris Becker, he won a grand slam title before he realised how difficult it was to do that. Sampras serves aces, which means that his opponents lose a lot of points without doing anything wrong — without, in fact, doing anything at all. Pacing to and fro across the baseline without laying racket on ball can be awfully frustrating.

Sampras returns service well. There is much more to him than his service and volley. But so far he explores

the range of tactical options with curiosity rather than confidence. His game either works or it does not. But he is a bright, genial, laid-back sort of chap, and an admirer of Rod Laver, which suggests that although Sampras has a lot to learn, he is studying at a good school.

The only snag is that nobody in his right mind can hope to play like Laver or, for that matter, Low Hand. They were great players, but, technically, hazardous models — not least because their extraordinary strength of wrist enabled them to play shots most men would never even think about. Yesterday Goran Ivanisevic, the nerves were fraying. On paper he looked as if Castle should have been — more than cannon fodder for the big-serving Yugoslav, but when Castle refused to play according to the script, Ivanisevic was not a happy man.

Life had not been easy for the two players. In two hours 20 minutes they had managed only two short bursts and that to the accompaniment of thunder and lightning. By the time Castle had matched Ivanisevic point for point until it was 5-5 in the second set, the Yugoslav was ready to snap. Although he was serving like a demon at times, Ivanisevic was broken three

Ivanisevic's nerve frayed by Castle

By ALIX RAMSAY

SANITY is a rare commodity around Wimbledon at the moment. After four days of playing cat and mouse with the weather everyone is a little twitchy.

When Andrew Castle took to the court against Goran Ivanisevic, the nerves were fraying. On paper he looked as if Castle should have been — more than cannon fodder for the big-serving Yugoslav, but when Castle refused to play according to the script, Ivanisevic was not a happy man. Life had not been easy for the two players. In two hours 20 minutes they had managed only two short bursts and that to the accompaniment of thunder and lightning. By the time Castle had matched Ivanisevic point for point until it was 5-5 in the second set, the Yugoslav was ready to snap. Although he was serving like a demon at times, Ivanisevic was broken three

times in his ultimately successful tie-breaker, each time because he slipped on his approach to the net.

By the second game of the second set, he had had enough. As Castle served, the Yugoslav Ivanisevic, the nerves were fraying. On paper he looked as if Castle should have been — more than cannon fodder for the big-serving Yugoslav, but when Castle refused to play according to the script, Ivanisevic was not a happy man. Life had not been easy for the two players. In two hours 20 minutes they had managed only two short bursts and that to the accompaniment of thunder and lightning. By the time Castle had matched Ivanisevic point for point until it was 5-5 in the second set, the Yugoslav was ready to snap. Although he was serving like a demon at times, Ivanisevic was broken three

Pressure is on to start later

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE rain, which has left Wimbledon facing a backlog of nearly 150 matches after the first four days, might have unforeseen long-term effects on the future of Wimbledon.

Pressure had already been building up on the All-England Club to move the Championships forward a week to the first fortnight in July so as to allow more time for the players to acclimatise to grass after the clay-court season and the French Open.

However, the inclemency of the weather in the first week has given further ammunition to those who want the change made sooner rather than later. Stefan Edberg, for example,

"I would definitely support a move to move the Championships forward a week to the first fortnight in July so as to allow more time for the players to acclimatise to grass after the clay-court season and the French Open."

matches completed over the first four days.

"I think most of the players would support that too," Wimbledon have already indicated to the players' authorities that they would be willing to move and could do so in 1992. According to Peter Jackson, a member of the Club's management committee yesterday, they are still waiting for a reply from the players' associations. "We would be happy to make the move," he said.

The players' associations — the Association of Tennis Professionals and the Women's Tennis Association — were cautious in their response to the change. "This is something we would be very interested in discussing with the All-England Club," Richard Evans, the head of communications at the Association of Tennis Professionals, said. "We would be very happy

to consider the proposals."

The reaction of the WTA was much the same. "We will be pleased to consider the Club's request. However, a formal request must be submitted to the Women's International Tennis Council."

There are obviously many factors to consider before we can accommodate the Club's request for such a rescheduling of tournaments during the summer months. We will certainly give this matter serious consideration.

One of the problems delaying a move which seems to be beneficial to almost every faction of the game is the possibility that if Wimbledon moved forward to July, the French Open in Paris would take the chance of moving forward too, keeping the gap between the two at its present two weeks. Once again, logic plays second fiddle to politics.

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Winner: £240,000
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Holders: S Edberg (Swe)

First round
S Edberg (Swe) bt M Rosset (Switz), 6-4, 6-4, 6-4
J Flavia (Fr) bt A Moroz (Ger), 6-4, 6-0, 6-3
D Rostagno (US) bt R Furlan (It), 6-0, 6-3, 6-3

Unfinished matches
G Ivanisevic (Yug) leads A Castle (GB), 7-5, 5-5
A Agassi (US) level with G Connell (Can), 4-6, 6-1, 1-1

Women's singles

Winner: £218,000
Runner-up: £109,000
Holders: M Navratilova (US)

First round
J Hargreaves (Fr) bt C Tolet (NZ), 6-1, 6-2, 6-3
M Wozniak (US) bt D Graham (US), 6-3, 6-2
M Bollegraf (Neth) bt V Humphreys (N Zeland), 6-3, 6-2
N Savchenko (Ukr) bt C Barrios (Switz), 6-2, 6-2
A Minter (Aus) bt S Martin (US), 6-4, 6-2, 6-4
G Fernandez (P Rico) bt H Sukova (Czech), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4
B Fulco (Arg) bt E De Lona (US), 3-6, 6-2, 6-4
R Zrubekova (Cz) bt R McQuillan (Aust), 7-6, 6-2
J Capriati (US) bt S Stafford (US), 6-0, 7-5
L Harvey-Wad (US) bt L Kreiss (US), 6-4, 6-2
N Zvereva (USSR) bt C Tassi (Arg), 7-5, 6-4
G Sabatini (Arg) bt M Javer (GB), 6-4, 6-0

Unfinished matches
K Maleeva (Bul) leads J Salmon (GB), 7-5, 6-3

STUDENT SPORT

Squad of 58 athletes named for Sheffield

By MARK HERBERT

STEVE Backley leads a 58-strong British athletics squad containing few surprises into the World Student Games in Sheffield next month.

The leading competitors include Fiona May, the former world junior long jump champion, Calvin Henry, London University's 400 metres runner, Matthew Simons, the British No. 1 in the shot, and Geoff Parsons, the Great Britain high jumper approaching his fourth Games. Eminent absentees include Beverley Nicholson, Jo Jennings, Simon Muggleton, and Ian Hamer, either injured or unavailable.

ARTY: Men: 100m: S Gossley (Nottingham), A Fugallo (Bristol), C Rumbolt (West London), 200m: S Wiles (Central London), 400m: C Henry (London), 800m: A Luff (Leeds), 1,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 1,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 2,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 2,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 3,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 3,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 4,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 4,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 5,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 5,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 6,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 6,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 7,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 7,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 8,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 8,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 9,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 9,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 10,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 10,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 11,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 11,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 12,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 12,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 13,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 13,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 14,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 14,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 15,000m: A Gossley (Leeds), 15,500m: A Gossley (Leeds), 16,000m: A 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An answer to rain delays on centre court

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE frustrations of spectators huddling beneath umbrellas at Wimbledon yesterday, not to mention those of countless television viewers, might have been avoided had the centre court been equipped with a moveable roof. However, such a device would also have required the most advanced technology for any sports stadium in Europe.

The Times yesterday asked Ove Arup, the consulting engineering company, to design a roof suitable for the 21st century to ensure that spectators remained dry and that tennis could be played in comfort. Arup, who were the engineering consultants for Stansted Airport, the New Mound Stand at Lord's and also the new stadium in Bari, where England met Italy in their third place play-off match in football's World Cup finals, knew that the existing structure of the centre court would not support a sliding roof, similar to the one at

Flinders Park, Melbourne, which houses the Australian Open championships.

Chris Wise, an engineer/designer, therefore proposed erecting eight guide masts round the centre court and similar poles round any other courts that the All England Club might want to cover. Whenever rain threatened, a series of fans, like venetian blinds, which would be suspended from the masts, would be opened by electrically driven motors to spread over the playing area. This operation would take less than 15 minutes, allowing tennis to continue.

Under this scheme, the present roof to the centre court and also the pillars, which interfere with the view of the spectators, could be removed. Because the new roof of 100 metres by 100 metres would be suspended and also retractable, air could circulate freely round the stadium and the grass could continue to grow.

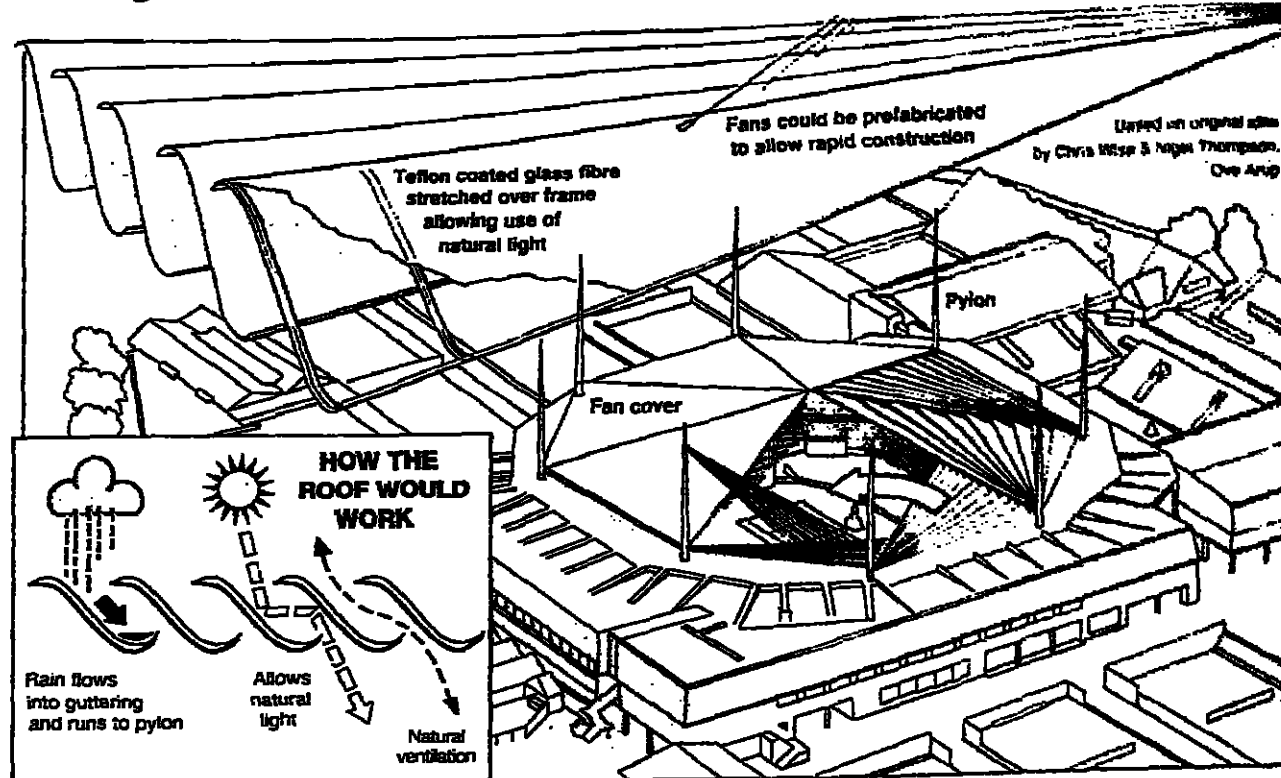
The estimated cost, £10 million, for the centre court would be almost exactly the projected profit from the 1991 Championships, which will instead go to the Lawn Tennis Association for the benefit of the sport in Britain. Nigel Thompson, a director of Ove Arup, described the concept as "very exciting", as did Gerant John, the chief architect to the Sports Council.

John said: "Technically, it would be feasible to cover temporarily all 40 acres of the All England Club with a number of retractable roofs." One single span covering all the grounds would not be possible because the grass would not be able to grow. He added: "If the All England Club was interested, it would have to get some talented people to look at the possibilities, so that the design was both innovative and practical and be worthy of an international event of this calibre." Flushing Meadow, the venue of the United States

Open tennis championships, is about to build some new courts and Gino Rossini, the chief executive of the architectural company that is designing them, eventually rejected installing moveable roofs.

He said: "The number of rainy days we have in New York are fewer than you have in Britain. The cost was also prohibitive for an event lasting only two weeks. However, Wimbledon would benefit because it seems to be constantly inundated with bad weather and this could justify the cost. It would be feasible."

A spokeswoman for the All England Club said the possibility was examined several years ago. "The main objection is that it would completely and utterly change the nature of the event. In addition, you could not use any machinery that gives off gases, like generators and vehicles, under the roofs. The noise would also be a problem because it would rebound from the roofs."



New look: Ove Arup's futuristic design for a modern, moveable roof to cover the centre court at Wimbledon

American rebel makes low-key entry to Wimbledon

Angelic Agassi's return is cut short by clouds

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

ALL Andre Agassi needed on centre court yesterday was wings. Dressed all in white, from his headband to his tennis shoes, he looked thoroughly angelic. In fact, he looked more than angelic. He looked like a real, old-fashioned tennis hero, headband, mane and a touch of street urchin excepted.

For a moment or two, before the rain ended the fun for the day, with he and Grant Connell all-square at 4-6, 6-1, 1-1, Agassi played, if not heroically, then quite decently. He certainly behaved impeccably, timing his bow to the royal box rather better than some of his groundstrokes initially, but awarding Connell a point when he slid into the net in the middle of the first set.

It was a vital point too, because he dropped his service soon after, but he won over the crowd, who had reacted to his appearance with the due caution of the British in the face of the unknown. In the royal box, Ted Dexter and

Graham Gooch must have been impressed, with both the wit and the gesture.

Most of the theatricals were confined to the skies, which prefaced Agassi's long-awaited return with thunder and lightning and then threw down another bucket of rain just as the centre court crowd had gathered to witness the unveiling. The delay, the second of the day, postponed his entrance for a further hour.

Sartorially, it was not worth the wait. Technically, it was fascinating. The American took a set to understand the basics of grass-court play. Not surprisingly, because, by all accounts, he has not given over his heart and soul to practice in the last few weeks. Connell must have worried him too, not so much for his tennis, which was neat and

tidy, but because he is not dissimilar to Henri Leconte, who frightened Agassi off on his last appearance at Wimbledon in 1987.

Connell does not have the same flair as the Frenchman, but he had enough of something to beat Lendl at Queen's two weeks ago and had too much for Agassi in the beginning. The Canadian, with a blue band across his shirt, was the more colourful, and even borrowed from the Agassian repertoire, hitting one reverse shot between his legs. It lost him the point and brought a look of appreciation, verging on envy, from the real showman, who was struggling to find his feet.

Despite the heavy conditions, the ball was on to Agassi faster than a natural clay-courtier would expect, and volleying was still a foreign art. By the time he had made the adjustment, the first set was gone.

Agassi learns fast, however, and, by early in the second set, he had found the range. His returns scorched the shoelaces of Connell's blue and white trainers and he broke in the second and fourth games to win his first set on grass and level the match. Then the rain came, giving Connell a chance to regroup.

Stefan Edberg's opening match has been the symbol of Wimbledon 1991. It should have begun on Monday, started on Tuesday and was finished yesterday afternoon at 2.44pm, three sets and nearly 47 hours later. It gave the defending champion a chance to indulge his genius for the understatement. "On the third day of rain," he said with biblical intonation, "it gets a little frustrating. But you just have to laugh."

Rosset is the tennis equivalent of the world heavyweight boxing champion, Primo Carnera, who was nicknamed the Ambling Alp. He is 6ft 5in, comes from Geneva and has a service like an express. What follows, though, is more goods train than InterCity and, as the Wimbledon champion is quicker of eye and feet than most, Rosset spent much of his time in a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 defeat peering into a very dark tunnel.

Only 52 matches out of a possible 256 had been completed when rain ended play for the day again yesterday, the worst start to the Championships on record.

HBO ready to run up a white flag

WIMBLEDON officials are not the only ones who have to perform a juggling act with the schedules to cope with the rain. Those trying to put together television coverage of Wimbledon have also suffered problems.

"There comes a point when you throw your hands up and say 'quit'," Ross Greenburg, the executive producer of Home Box Office's Wimbledon coverage, said. "Maybe we will have to have a white flag suspended from the complex."



On target: Merry, of Hertfordshire, watched by his captain, Surridge, ensures victory in a 'bowl-out' yesterday

Derbyshire lose in 'bowl-out'

By RICHARD STREITON

BISHOP'S STORTFORD (Derbyshire won toss): Match abandoned. Hertfordshire beat Derbyshire by two hits to one in a bowling contest

HERTFORDSHIRE, the Minor County champions, eliminated Derbyshire from the NatWest Trophy yesterday in the first senior match in England decided by five bowlers from each side bowling at unguarded stumps.

Though many consider it tantamount to a lottery, this was the method provided for by the regulations after rain left the ground soaked for the second successive day.

A couple of hours later, Surrey avoided a similar fate when they defeated Oxfordshire 3-2 at the Oval.

At Bishop's Stortford, each bowler was allowed to deliver two balls. Derbyshire managed only one hit, at their ninth attempt. Mortensen, Warner, Griffith and Base all failed with both attempts.

Goldsmith, their final bowler, hit the wicket with his first ball and missed with his second.

Hertfordshire began with three former Middlesex bowlers. Needham succeeded with his first ball and missed with his second. Carr then missed

with both his attempts. Merry, the third bowler, missed with his first ball before knocking back the middle stump with his second. Hertfordshire, therefore, secured victory with four balls to spare, without Harris and Surridge needing to bowl.

The competition lasted barely 15 minutes, supervised by Alan Whitehead and Brian Harrison, the umpires, standing in their usual position with the wicketkeepers the only other players involved.

Surridge, the Hertfordshire captain, a former Cambridge University and Gloucestershire player, admitted: "If we had won a proper game we would have been celebrating all night. As it is this is a hollow way to win."

Kim Barnett, the Derbyshire captain, said that even if his side had won, he would still believe that the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) needed to amend the regulations and find some other way of settling rain-disrupted games. "I am concerned about what is an unfair system. To start with, I think three days should be set aside for these important fixtures to minimise the chances of interference by the weather." This is the first summer only two days have been set aside for

REVISED DRAW

NATWEST TROPHY: Second round: Gloucestershire v Nottinghamshire (at Bristol); Hampshire v Lancashire (at Southampton); Northamptonshire v Leicestershire (at Northampton); Somerset v Middlesex (at Taunton); Surrey v Kent (at the Oval); Sussex v Essex (at Hove); Warwickshire v Hertfordshire (at Edgbaston); Worcestershire v Glamorgan (at Worcester). Matches to be played on July 11.

NatWest ties, and follows from switching the starting days for championship fixtures to Tuesday and Fridays.

Barnett also thought that all matches with minor county teams should be played at the headquarters grounds of the first-class counties, whose covering facilities, inevitably, were more adequate. "This is no reflection on the ground-staff here, who did their best," he said.

As torrential thunderstorms broke regularly during the day, the umpires and captains held lengthy discussions about what could be done, with the TCCB rung several times for guidance. The board is understood to have been desperate for the match to be settled by some form of cricket rather than by the toss of a coin, which was permissible if no alternative could be found. The last important match

settled by a toss was in 1983, when Middlesex beat Gloucestershire in a Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final.

Unsuccessful inquiries were made yesterday into whether the fixture could be switched to Chelmsford, the nearest first-class ground, or some other local club ground.

Barnett was against holding the competition indoors because, with four bowlers more than 6ft tall, he feared too many balls would go over the stumps. For this reason, Derbyshire did not use Malcolm, the England fast bowler, when the competition did take place outdoors. Barnett preferred to toss a coin if the weather did not allow them to bowl outside.

Surridge did not mind what method was agreed. The TCCB ruled, however, that the bowling competition had to take place if it was feasible, and both captains agreed to go ahead on the slippery grass between storms.

It was at 2pm when the umpires finally decided that any attempt to play a match, even with a reduced number of overs, had to be ruled out. Another two-and-a-quarter hours passed before the competition actually got under way as further discussions followed.

Derby's sales may fall through

By IAN ROSS

THE proposed transfers of Dean Saunders and Mark Wright away from Derby County are now thought to be in danger of collapsing.

Derby, who announced an intention to sell the pair following their relegation to the second division, have rejected the one firm bid they received for each player.

Liverpool, who have offered £1.4 million for Wright, the England international centre half, were informed that their bid was unacceptable. Everton were also told that their £2.2 million bid for Saunders, the Welsh international forward, fell well short of County's valuation.

Negotiations have now reached something of an impasse as both clubs are reluctant to increase their offers as they do not face any direct competition for either player.

With Derby demanding £3 million for Saunders and £2.5 million for Wright, there is now a possibility that both men will still be at the Baseball Ground when the new season opens in late August.

Paul Gascoigne's on-off move to Lazio will be resolved within the next 24 hours, according to Mel Stein his adviser.

Representatives of the Italian club are in London for talks with Tottenham Hotspur's managing director, Terry Venables, and Stein.

Venables, who has persuaded Vinny Samways to tie himself to Tottenham until 1996, is said to have met Gascoigne this week to discuss the possibility of the injured England player extending his two-year White Hart Lane contract. But Nat Solomon, the chairman of Tottenham plc, suggested that Gascoigne is attracted by the prospect of financial security attached to a move to Rome.

Welsh go through to finals

WALES reached all four finals and England three when the British women's individual bowls championships began in Belfast yesterday (Gordon Allan writes). Ireland took the remaining place, while Scotland came away empty-handed.

Barbara Tilt, a grandmother from Portsmouth, plays Eileen Thomas, of Port Talbot, in the singles today. Tilt used long jacks to profitable effect in beating Margaret Ritchie, of Walsley, 25-17, and Thomas scored four shots on the decisive end to repulse a comeback by Marie Barber, of Dublin, 25-18.

RESULTS: Singles semi-finals: E Thomas (Wales) 25, M Barber (Ire) 18; B Tilt (Eng) 25, M Ritchie (Scott) 17. Pairs: semi-finals: M Burns, M Murray (Wales) 32, J Gordon, M Cullen (Scott) 13; S Highcock, M Martin (Ire) 24, M Christmas, J Turpin (Eng) 15. Triples semi-finals: S King, D Rowlands, M Davies (Wales) 22, N Montgomery, J Ward, J Mathewson (Ire) 8, A Montgomery, A Elliot, J Pugh (Eng) 30. M McAvoy, I Pratt, H Wylie (Scott) 6. Four: semi-finals: V Mitchell, S Barker, J Walle, L Thomas (Wales) 18, B 18, S Turner, J Gunn, C Barr (Scott) 16. Knockouts (Eng) 24, N Montgomery, F Chestnut, A Elliot, J Mathewson (Ire) 16.

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